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Near East & South Asia

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Evren Reaction to European Parliament Resolution

46050029a *Montreal HORIZON* in Armenian
6 Jul 87 p 1

[Editorial: "In Order That They Establish a State...."]

[Text] Responding to the European Parliament's historic resolution of 18 June recognizing the Armenian Genocide and demanding that Turkey also recognize it and sit down with Armenian representatives to engage in a dialogue, President Evren demonstrated in a speech given in Sebastia that he understands very well the goals of us Armenians, that is, our dream to live free and independent, in our own homeland. He stated: "Those 'allies' of ours who voted in favor of that resolution would have us give up part of our land to terrorists so that they can establish a government."

It is for this reason that he, as all his predecessors, totally opposes yielding to any Armenian demands, and it is for this reason that they have adopted the most degrading positions — degrading for a civilized and modern people — such as calling us all terrorists as in the above statement, so that in no place and at no time will the ball of yarn ever become unraveled... whereby the Armenians would have any chance of getting back the lands confiscated from them.

But that is the very heart of the matter.

Recognition of the Genocide is the first step. Recognition alone cannot be more than a consolation for us, especially since the facts of reality are that what is being done is reacknowledgment. As long as the Turks continue to deny having committed any genocide against us in 1915-1923, the facts are there in full view — the press of those years is full of shocking reports; countries in Europe and the Americas have conducted many initiatives to gather together and care for our orphans. In the final analysis, nobody can deny that the Armenians who survived the Great Massacre are scattered all over the world and that the historic homeland of the Armenians was emptied of its people.

The Armenian struggle on all fronts, be it demonstrative (by means of bloody actions), political, or cultural, tends not simply to recognize the fact of genocide but, having recognized it, to insist on necessary retribution. That is the most important thing, the very heart of the matter.

Recognition in and of itself is of no use to us, but by recognizing historical reality, in this case by Europe, and tomorrow by the entire world, it is their worth and dignity that they will be preserving, the worth and dignity of man. Turkey could do the same, thus bettering its behavior, by setting itself free from its medieval reputation of savage ferocity, entering the final years of the 20th century among the ranks of crusaders and defenders of human rights, becoming a modern state and settling its accounts with its embarrassing past.

Yes, recognition is beneficial to others — and we want it to be so — so that genocide never again takes place, so that others will not be subjected to our cruel fate.

It is the consequences of this recognition, however, that are of interest to us, since the provisions of the UN Genocide Convention state that there shall be no statute of limitations to this crime and that the victim shall receive restitution.

And that is what we as a nation are waiting for, waiting without discouragement or dejection, and it is for this that we are struggling.

3024

TERJUMAN Comments on European Parliament Resolution

46050029a *Istanbul JAMANAK* in Armenian
19 Jul 87 p 1

[Article: "Link Established Between Question of Turkish Democracy, Presence of Turkish Soldiers on Cyprus, Minorities Question, Human Rights, and the Armenian Question"]

[Text] Strasbourg. *Terjuman* reports that the Armenians have succeeded by means of various ploys and threats in getting the European Parliament to adopt the official report and resolution titled "Resolution on the Solution of the Armenian Question" with addition of the word "genocide."

Intimidated by threats issued by ASALA, the liberal, conservative, and Christian Democrat Euro-deputies did not take part in the voting; a plenary meeting, which was assembled with less than half the members present, adopted the Armenian Official Report by an overwhelming majority vote.

Prior to taking the vote at the Plenary Session, pro-Turkish deputy from Germany Rudolf (Vederind) announced that he and three deputies to the European Parliament had received death threats from Armenian militants; many liberal, conservative, and Christian Democrat deputies refrained from taking part in the vote as a result of these threats. He continued: "We have been deprived of our freedom. This vote cannot take place."

It is interesting to note that the Greek and French information agencies of the European Parliament, the (DOT), had undertaken wide measures of security. Journalists in attendance at the European Parliament were prohibited from taking pictures, and Armenians who succeeded in gaining entry were prohibited from approaching any of the deputies.

As a result of yesterday evening's vote, the European Commission adopted the Armenian Official Report with the added word "genocide" as prepared by Belgian

Euro-Deputy Vandemeulebroucke. Thus for the first time in history, Armenian demands were incorporated into official documents of an international organization.

The Kurdish and Cyprus questions were also incorporated into the resolution, and it was emphasized that Turkey's joining the Common Market depends on official recognition of the Armenian Question and acceptance of the principle of damages for the suffering inflicted.

There were frequent Greek speakers during yesterday evening's 45-minute debate. The spokesmen for the Socialist, Green, and Communist factions asserted that, with addition of the word "genocide," the vote on the Armenian Resolution would be a historic event.

Socialist spokesman (Sabri) stated the following: "Turkey must recognize Armenia if it hopes to join the Common Market. The Turkish people are not responsible for the events of 1915, but a dialogue must take place between Turkey and Armenia."

German Liberal (Leommer) stressed that it is wrong for the European Commission to debate events which took place 70 years ago; the events of 1915 were tragic not only for the Armenians but for the Turks as well.

A French deputy stated: "Every European country has experienced a similar tragedy in the past. We serve the cause of peace and reconciliation. Let us not interfere in this affair. The purpose is to weaken the stability of Turkey and the Turkish people. Let us not play games."

3024

Editorial Blasts Evren, Turkish Foreign Ministry
46050028a Athens AZAT OR in Armenian
27 Jun 87 p 1

[Article: "Press News Release of the Commission of the Armenian National Committee in Greece"]

[Text] In response to international public opinion, the Commission of the Armenian National Committee of Greece condemns as unfounded and absurd public statements made by Turkish President Evren as well as by officials of Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These persons, swiftly responding to the historic resolution passed by the European Parliament, which condemns Turkey of genocide against the Armenian people and demands that a political dialogue begin between representatives of the Turkish and Armenian people, "to achieve a political resolution of the Armenian Question," are continuing their provocation and threats against the European democratic governments and peoples as well as against the struggling Armenian people.

Thus Turkey's criminal, nationalistic leadership, after calling this resolution one-sided and "racist," is applying pressure to the governments of the member countries,

noting that the resolution will encourage further demands by the Armenian people for creation of a government in Eastern Turkey.

Despite international condemnation of the Genocide committed against the Armenian people, the chauvinists in Ankara have brazenly continued to deny that their predecessors committed a Genocide against our people in 1915, stressing their belief in human dignity and the "principle" of ignoring every legality and displaying their political immaturity as well as the alienness of their presence in Europe.

The Commission of the Armenian National Committee in Greece believes that the European democratic governments and peoples will ignore Turkey's criminal provocations and senseless threats and will continue to observe humanist and European traditions of respect for national rights by implementing this resolution.

The Commission of the Armenian National Committee in Greece is convinced that restatement of the truth of historical reality by the European Parliament will foster and promote the struggle of the Armenian people and their demands for national retribution. The Armenian people, who have unquestionably become stronger from the historic resolution of the European Parliament, will continue their struggle until Turkey is condemned for its Genocide committed against our people and the Armenian lands confiscated by Turkey are returned to their sole rightful owner, the Armenian people.

3024

Franco-Turkish Relations Strained Over Armenian Question
46050027b Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 4 Jun 87 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Franco-Turkish Relations Are Once Again Strained Because of the Armenian Question"]

[Text] *Milliyet*'s Ankara correspondent reports that this next week the "Armenian Resolution" will be discussed in the European Parliament. A campaign for the passage of this resolution has been organized, with a group of French representatives and Armenian groups working in close collaboration. These developments could once again cause a chill in French-Turkish relations.

The Ankara authorities have lodged an official demand with the government of Jacques Chirac that it adopt a less favorable position toward this unbridled campaign. Noting that France's Minister of Environmental Protection has recently become a party to this campaign, Ankara's reaction has become more pronounced, expressing even greater dissatisfaction and bitterness. A high-ranking Turkish official declared that "it is impossible to accept such a movement as a friendly action when it can have such unpleasant consequences."

It has been noted that if these negative activities on the part of one member of Chirac's cabinet and by France's delegates to the European Parliament do not cease, relations between the two countries could once again deteriorate sharply, relations which only recently have become more friendly.

France's Contradictoriness

As we know, thanks to a number of meetings held a few months ago between Ozal and Chirac, relations were gradually beginning to improve, especially when the European Parliament's Political Commission, with France's approval, decided to delete the word "genocide" from the "Armenian Resolution." On the whole friendly relations have been developing rapidly during the past year, with a revival of cultural and trade exchanges as well. Of course the new approach to the Armenian Question by French circles has played a big part in all this. It has become clear, however, that the French delegates to the European Parliament played a major role in putting the Armenian Resolution back on the agenda of the European Parliament. This resolution will be discussed again on 18 June, that is, in approximately one week, which could result in additional complications and unpleasant events. One notes that parliament delegates supporting discussion of the Resolution include French delegates, both those representing the Government and members of the opposition. It is surprising and incomprehensible that these representatives are now campaigning to have the Resolution adopted by the Parliament in the form it had prior to being reworked by the Political Commission. The French delegates consequently are demanding that a clause be appended to the Resolution which will stress that the Parliament accepts the genocide as fact. The French delegates are working practically hand in glove with members of the Armenian lobby in these efforts.

A French diplomat whom the *Milliyet* correspondent interviewed in this regard gave the following reply to the question put to him: "These Parliament delegates are simply acting in conformity with the views of those who have elected them. They cannot be expected to take Turkish-French relations into consideration under these circumstances."

Ankara Waits

Ankara can never accept as a satisfactory reply the explanation given by the French authorities. Ankara therefore believes that it would be appropriate for Chirac's Government to do everything it can to prevent the occurrence of such unpleasant incidents and to change its contradictory position, which is not appropriate to a serious, conscientious government. Ankara is waiting and hoping that Jacques Chirac's Government will immediately proceed to move in opposition to this unfriendly activity.

We should note that a member of Chirac's cabinet, the minister of environmental protection, has also sided with the French delegates to the European Parliament who support recognition of the "Genocide." This circumstance emphasizes even more strongly the just nature of the position of protest taken by the Turkish Government.

3024

Denktash: Greeks Use Armenian Question Against Turkey

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 26 May 87 p 1

[Article: "He Is Using Cypriot Armenians to Foment Hatred Toward Turkey"]

[Text] Rauf Denktash, president of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, has sent a note to President Spyros Kyprianou of the Southern Cyprus Greek Administration, warning him not to try to harm the Turks by exploiting the Armenian Question throughout the world. Denktash made this announcement yesterday in Lefka, noting that at the dedication ceremony for the new Southern Armenian Melkonian Educational Institution in the capital city, Kyprianou made a speech containing negative references to the Turks and once again repeated that the Greeks will always be on the side of the Armenians. Denktash took this occasion to voice the reminder that the Armenians have also been the victims of Greek barbarity and have been harmed as much in Cyprus as have the Turks. Denktash went on, noting that Kyprianou was lacking any sense of shame or disgrace and was continuing to foment sentiments of hatred and revulsion between peoples. 3024

Turkish Paper Separates Ottoman, Present Turkish Policies

*46050031 Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian
26 Jun 87 pp 1, 4*

[Article by Murat Pelke: "The Armenians"]

[Text] The following article by Murat Pelke appeared in the newspaper YENI GUNDEM.

Since the beginning of 1980 the Turk has been in a position of defending himself against the outside world. During this time a number of international political issues as well as issues pertaining to domestic rule and government appear to be intermingled. One has observed the shutting down of parties, imposing of prohibitions, and a rather sharply-defined defensive stance against actions from the outside, akin to various actions connected with a state of siege, a comment which also applies to the Cyprus and Armenian questions. We often use the phrase "hostility of the Turks," without being aware of the essential meaning of this term, directing this hostility toward both those who "seek to overthrow us" and those who "help" them.

At the same time debate of a number of issues, with the Eastern Question standing at the top of the list, is being restrained in a number of areas in Turkey as well. In particular, it can be stated that we are unable to debate even the Cyprus Question, just like the Armenian Question, international issues which are hotly debated, as the "sole" and "nationally" regarded items of discussion.

This atmosphere, created by the 1980's, should be done away with. This policy has made it impossible to see a genuine solution to any issue; continuation of such a forced policy can also make a number of other issues unsolvable.

The European Parliament Resolution of concern to Turkey, which places the Armenians on the prime agenda, but also addresses other issues as well, and Turkey's expressed opposition to this resolution, is the most recent example of this situation. The press and all official and unofficial media spokesmen are singing a common chorus regarding this resolution of the European Parliament. It is of interest to address the question of whether this is a correct and appropriate position to take.

The fact is that careful examination shows that in the European Parliament's approach to the issue, it endeavors to distance the government of the Republic of Turkey from these events of the past.

This is an absolutely correct approach. The laws of the republic have changed the confused and vacillating position of the Ottoman State toward the Christian minority, it has adopted on the basis of modern thinking the concept of fellow citizens, and has put an end to exclusive control and partial uses.

In addition to this, the Republic of Turkey, which was founded as a consequence of a major struggle against the authorities of the final period of the Ottoman Empire, has no reason to assume or accept responsibility for the actions of that state.

For this very reason one is hard put to comprehend why for some time now commemorations of the anniversary of Talaat Pasha's death have been taking place.

It is natural that linkages and a continuing relationship exist between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey, but this continuing linkage does not apply to the state political domain; it should be found rather at a personal and public level if we wholeheartedly believe that the state associated with the Republic differs radically from the Ottoman State.

The final text of the resolution drawn up by the European Parliament specifically stresses this point. Yet in this circumstance a heavy-weighting term such as "genocide" is used in the resolution.

Considering the official policy of modern-day Turkey in this regard, I believe that the events in question should be characterized differently than with the term "genocide."

Genocide is a deliberate, planned and collectively-executed massacre. That which the Nazis did to the Jews and what many other "white" Westerners did by killing natives in areas occupied by them can be characterized as genocide (such as the native North Americans and South African blacks).

Under the conditions of war prevailing in the Ottoman Empire, however, certain precautionary measures taken against the Armenians who were siding with the enemy armies did not constitute genocide.

One can state that it is a question of "method," but it is an important question, since in diplomacy all these forms of explanation play a decisive role. The official Turkish policy, however, is totally to refuse to debate the matter. When this happens, it is up to others to give the event a "name." Consequently one should not be surprised at the results.

If on the one hand we "indict" events at the diplomatic level and say "and therefore I refuse to recognize you," and if on the other hand, for example, we criticize the contents of such a reference work as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, we shall be obliged to accept these consequences.

What is more important: how Europe sees us, how we see ourselves, or how we would like to see ourselves?

Being a democratic and free society, what is important is how we see ourselves.

3024

Editorial Criticizes Turkish Leaders

46050028b Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 2 Jul 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Introduce the Turk to the World"]

[Text] The resolution passed by the European Parliament on 18 June evoked violent, passionate reactions in leading Turkish circles. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, ministers and party leaders made cursing and threatening statements concerning the European Parliament and those who voted in favor of the resolution.

The campaign was headed up by President Kenan Evren, who from Elazig to Sebastia and Kharberd did not miss a single opportunity to reflect upon the parliament's resolution and its consequences. With steadily growing arrogance, he candidly displayed the historical truth: a description of the Turkish tribe at the instinct level.

Everything Evren said was an echo of the Turk's atavistic worship of race. His common cursing, his cheap challenge to a duel and political erudition evoke an atmosphere of popular folklore, in which the "leader of the tribe" endeavors to inspire confidence in the tribe and to neutralize those doubts which unquestionably have appeared among the Turks, who up until the present time have been fed the distorted history and phony culture passed on to succeeding Turkish generations.

This unbridled campaign was unleashed in spite of the fact that the resolution passed by the European Parliament speaks in an apologetic manner about present-day Turkey and does not find contemporary Turkey responsible for the Armenian Genocide. In addition, the resolution explains all Armenian political and land demands which can come from this resolution.

The principal demand is recognition by Turkey of the Genocide as a historical fact. But because the European Parliament stipulates this recognition as a condition for Turkey to enter the European Community, political pressure ensues which forces Turkey against the wall.

The Turk, who for 70 years has denied the Genocide and has tried to falsify history, now finds himself in the position of self-evaluation as a civilized nation. In the course of this campaign on behalf of the Turkish tribe, which has destroyed civilizations and cultures and has enslaved peoples, he presents the consecration of Turkish national treasures as a political necessity, for the present-day cosmopolitan situation constitutes a hindrance to Pan-Turkic outward spread.

This political thinking has resulted in attempts by the Turks as a nation, and by Mustafa Kemal and his followers, to appraise Turkey as a state. The Kemalists, who strive to set Turkey free from a tribal spiritual state and religious obscurantism, are inclined to attempt to

build a "new" Turk and a "new" Turkey. They feel that this is possible when the Turk cuts the umbilical cord which connects him to Central Asia and becomes a "European."

These are futile attempts, because the Armenian Genocide has been perpetrated, the Armenian people have been dispossessed, and their lands and patrimony have been brought under occupation, and because Asia Minor is not the homeland of the Turks, and because the Armenian, the Kurd, the Greek, and the Arab remain wronged. Recognition of the genocide will manifest the true countenance of the Turkish tribe and will tear away the veil of lies.

It is for this reason that the Turkish leadership is worried and concerned and is resorting to countermeasures. And since the Turk remains a Turk, his countermeasures also reflect Turkish morality.

The resolution passed by the European Parliament is also valuable because of the repercussions we have seen among the Turkish leadership. The unconcealed anger of the Turk presents us with new opportunities for preaching and political endeavor. In this sense the perfidious Ozals and the simple Evrens are useful elements in our struggle.

At first glance the Turkish reaction appears to be superficial and without value. It is important to bear in mind, however, that dissemination of the Turkish reaction through the world community will naturally give way to new response, both in Europe and throughout the world. Reactions which are independent of mercenary military-political calculation will serve to introduce the Turk as he truly is, as a racist and fierce tribe which, in order to become a part of the family of nations, must not only respect human rights but also go through the purgatory of moral and cultural maturation.

Our struggle has experienced various successes and setbacks, but it has never ceased. One of its next stages will be additional rekindling of Turkish reactions and countermeasures and dissemination of the repercussions to all mankind.

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Habash Interviewed on Palestinian Situation in Lebanon

44040016 Abu Dhabi AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
4 Oct 87 p 15

[Interview with Dr George Habash by Ghassan 'Abdal-lah: "Birri's Initiative Provides Precious Opportunity and Reconstruction of Camps Is the Touchstone"; in Damascus, date not specified]

[Text] [Question] The Nabih Birri initiative and the subsequent agreement at the Sidon meeting between the Liberation and Unification Front and the Palestinian factions came in the wake of the highly complex Lebanese situation and expectations of more vehement confrontations among the various players.

How does the PFLP assess the Lebanese situation from the standpoint of being linked to the Palestinian situation? How does the Front view the Birri initiative that places new realities before the Palestinians?

[Answer] This initiative presents an opportunity to stop the bloodshed, the destruction and the many negative political consequences of the camps war which has brought harm not only to the Palestinian revolution, but to the Lebanese National Movement [LNM] and Syria as well and, consequently, the Arab steadfastness triangle and the entire process of resisting imperialist designs. In light of that, and from the moment this initiative saw the light, we have felt that it is a precious opportunity that ought to be exploited and pursued with as much flexibility as possible with a view to promoting its success.

Accordingly, talks were held between the Liberation and Unification Front and the Palestinian side and an agreement has been reached to withdraw from east Sidon; provided that such a step is preceded, accompanied and succeeded by all measures that can assuage Palestinian fears and pave the way for restoring the close alliance between the Palestinian revolution and the national faction in Lebanon.

A defined written agreement forged by the Palestinian side and the Lebanese side represented by the Liberation and Unification Front has been concluded. We on our part will do everything we can to implement this agreement. We have no ideal perceptions of how this agreement can be applied and it is natural that the climate of distrust created by the camps war should place obstacles in the way of implementation. Every side, however, must do everything it can to surmount these obstacles.

Some of these obstacles have indeed come into view and we must not despair. The primary obstacle has to do with the reconstruction of the camps. The agreement concluded in Sidon following the Birri initiative specified the need to bring in construction material and prepare

for reconstruction before the fifth of October. Nonetheless, we are still very hopeful that we will surmount these obstacles. I hope that the brothers in Syria will play a positive role in this regard because perpetuation of the status quo of the Lebanese as well as the Palestinian national ranks in Lebanon gives Israel, the Lebanese Forces, al-Jumayyil and the isolationist team in general the opportunity to carry out their schemes and to undermine the Lebanese-Syrian national plan in Lebanon.

One final point on this subject pertaining to the Popular Front's stance should this initiative prove to be a success. We believe that our chief task at this juncture is focused on putting the Palestinian situation in proper order so that we may consolidate the Lebanese-Palestinian national alliance as a first step toward a Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian alliance. What I mean is that we, as a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, are fully convinced that the preservation of the Palestinian status quo in Lebanon would have a great negative impact on the Palestinian revolution and on the joint Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian national opposition to hostile designs in Lebanon.

We must answer the following question: What do we want from Lebanon? Why do we insist on maintaining a Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon? How do we perceive our relations with the LNM? If the Palestinian revolution fails to provide a clear answer to these questions, Palestinian presence in Lebanon will not grow in the way we hope. To be exact, we ought to make it clear that we do not wish to flaunt our Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon nor do we wish to set up a Palestinian authority in Lebanon to impede or to fly in the face of the Lebanese National Movement programme. During its presence in Lebanon throughout the seventies and until 1982, the Palestinian revolution made mistakes. A bold reexamination process is in order. These mistakes must be identified, acknowledged and rectified [becomes infuriated and hits the arm rest with his left hand]. Conditions do not allow a comprehensive evaluation of the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon, but I would like to point very briefly to two major mistakes. The first is that the very nature of the Lebanese-Palestinian national alliance during the period in question was guided by the Palestinian revolution and that is wrong. This alliance ought to be guided by the LNM whereby the objective of the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon is to back the Lebanese masses and support the LNM in its quest for a democratic unified Lebanon.

The second major mistake involves excesses and misuse of arms. This has got to stop. The Lebanese masses and the LNM factions, and to the same extent the Amal Movement, must realize that we do not mean to use our weapons to flex our muscles or realize personal ends. Rather we want to use it to fight the Zionist enemy and support the LNM in its struggle with the isolationist enemy. Armed presence must be categorized on the basis of this perspective and this objective. A review of the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon in the seventies

shows that a lot of negative things emerged during that period and they must be rectified. Our duty toward the Palestinian cause and our masses and toward our Lebanese national allies is that should the Birri initiative succeed in bringing the camps war to an end, we should embark on the rectification process. I am sorry to say that the camps war has prevented the Popular Front and the Palestinian forces wishing to undertake the reexamination from embarking on this process. Palestinian masses and Palestinian fighters every time found themselves up against the first, then the second, then the third war of camps. In this environment, it was not easy, indeed, it was impossible to undertake this rectification process.

[Question] This brings us to the Palestinian house. Let us begin with the National Council that convened in Algiers in view of the fact that its results are linked to the national action crisis, both in its political and organizational sections. Also, how do you assess the post-council phase and the consequences of the 6 months that separated us from April 1987?

[Answer] Allow me to review the desired assessment process through the first two phases: the phase of the National Council that convened in Algiers and the nature of the battles the front launched in this regard, and our assessment of the political and organizational results we attained. Then we will deal with the post-National Council phase and our assessment of the course the PLO leadership followed after the Algiers session.

Regarding our assessment of the Algiers session and the ensuing results, you know that, from the political point of view, the Amman agreement was officially and publicly abrogated. The Popular Front used to say: abrogation must occur before the PNC meeting so as to ward off any unexpected views satisfied with putting the agreement on ice instead of abrogating it. This is actually what happened, an accomplishment as far as we are concerned.

Allow me to say that it was a great accomplishment. A look at the propositions put forth by the Popular Front and the democratic forces regarding this agreement and its serious implications and import shows that it is natural that we and all Palestinian citizens should regard it as a major, patent and palpable gain.

From the standpoint of relations with the Egyptian regime, suffice it to remind you of the Egyptian regime's reaction following the Algiers session so that you and the Palestinian and Arab masses may judge the resolution pertaining to relations with the Egyptian regime.

What is the significance of the abrogation of the Amman Agreement and the establishment of relations with the Egyptian regime based on the 16th session resolutions providing that any relations with this regime must be based on its willingness to abandon the Camp David

Accords? I have the right to conclude clearly and perceptibly that it signifies the closing of the Amman and Cairo gates, or the American solution gates. This is countered by a resolution adopted in the last PNC session providing for establishing better relations with Syria in view of its being the only Arab regime neighboring Palestine that is still holding its ground against the Zionist raid.

This is our assessment of the political portion of the Algiers session which represents a total reexamination of the entire political line 'Arafat followed from 1982 up until the last PNC session. These resolutions signify that policies 'Arafat has followed for 5 years are wrong and we want to put a stop to them and turn over a new leaf with a fresh political vision. Hence, the Popular Front's assessment is perfectly clear, namely that we came out with the best possible political results and I do not claim that we achieved everything we set out to do.

From the organizational point of view, I must admit, and we in the PFLP are known for our candor, that we have not achieved all our goals in this regard. This does not mean that we failed to achieve any organizational gains. We have indeed achieved some gains: the session ratified the organizational half of the Amman-Algiers agreement. A decision has been made to form a central council with decision-making powers and another one to form an everyday-leadership in charge of settling daily political, military and fiscal issues facing the PLO. Furthermore, a decision was taken to expand the PNC staff and a set of other resolutions has also been adopted. As for the executive committee, the de facto PLO leadership, no worthwhile shifts in the balance of power have occurred between the democratic forces and the other forces in the committee. This is the greatest loophole in the PNC results. I say the greatest loophole so that all of us, not only the PFLP, but rather the PFLP, the DFLP, the PLF, the Palestinian Communist Party and all those wishing to establish the PLO on democratic and collective foundations, may pursue the rectification process so that our motto of a reliable democratic collective leadership may be realized.

Regarding our assessment of the executive committee course following the PNC meetings in Algiers, I am sorry to say that certain individuals, Yasir 'Arafat particularly, is acting on the premise that what happened in Algiers was nothing but a rally that once again conferred legitimacy on him without paying any regard to the fact that the Algiers events were supposed to represent a serious rectification of the PLO situation. We have informed the brothers in Fatah more than once of our intentions to pursue with one another our concept of the Algiers accomplishment and ways to safeguard it, as well as the responsible climate that prevailed during the Algiers session. We do not consider what happened in Algiers as a "tribal conciliation" between George Habash and Yasir 'Arafat or between the Popular Front and Fatah. No indeed. What happened was the beginning of the rectification process and I do not say that with the Popular Front in mind, but rather with the Palestinian people before my eyes.

Unless the PLO situation is rectified, I cannot offer an optimistic assessment of this stage in the Palestinian people's struggle. By that I mean the period from 1965 up to this day. Many things need to be corrected, beginning with the political line and ending with fiscal and administrative issues facing the PLO. I cannot imagine that the Palestinian revolution can triumph under this kind of management. My sense of responsibility toward our martyrs and our Palestinian cause makes it incumbent upon me to speak the truth boldly and aloud.

At the present time, the most important matters facing us is the Birri initiative and the Palestinian situation in Lebanon with all its ramifications. Yasir 'Arafat's compliance with the political line drawn up in Algiers will reflect positively on the Lebanese arena. Compliance with the political line and PNC resolutions can smooth the way for a stronger alliance between us and the LNM. Non-compliance is bound to perpetuate the loopholes in this alliance.

At this point and in light of the above, the latter part in particular, namely 'Arafat's failure to comply with this political line, you might ask what course of action will the PFLP take? The answer is that we will struggle with vigor, determination, conviction, endurance and from a PLO premise to implement all the agreements reached in Algiers. 'Arafat must understand, and I do not say that to be negative, for all throughout the PNC session in Algiers I was thinking God for the kind of climate that allowed us to engage in responsible debate, that the PLO is not his own personal property [elaborated with exasperation], it is not his own personal property. Indeed, it belongs to all the Palestinians. We do not think of our presence in the PLO as a cover for 'Arafat's policy [pounding on the table]. No, our presence must carry with it a correction of the political line the PLO has followed from 1982 to 1987. This is what was agreed upon in Algiers. I do not say that easily, for the Amman Agreement has been abrogated. I would like to remind not only 'Arafat but all the brothers in the Fatah executive committee of the last night at the PNC in Algiers. What happened that night? The entire PNC session was doomed to failure, but the PFLP's insistence on and subsequent success in preserving the provision that relations with the Egyptian regime may be established only if the Camp David Accords are abandoned, saved the day. I remind them of the loud and incessant applause in the Algiers session when the resolutions were read, particularly the article stipulating that our relations with the Egyptian regime must be based on the 16th session's resolutions. This is the will of the PNC. We will not allow anyone to undermine resolutions adopted in the presence of everyone. The Algerian leadership was present and the USSR representatives were present and we can turn to our friends and ask: How do you perceive the motives behind this long applause in the PNC meeting hall?

[Question] If we may digress a bit to ask about an organizational resolution pertaining to the creation of

the everyday leadership you mentioned. What has been done in this regard and has this leadership been formed?

[Answer] Unfortunately, the everyday leadership has not been formed yet, but has been included on the executive committee's agenda. It was supposed to have been discussed in the last executive committee meeting and I hope that the committee has reached a verdict in this regard.

At any rate and speaking of the PLO, I would like to emphasize that the PLO's survival is contingent on adherence to the national line and resolutions conceived in Algiers. We will open our hearts to any cooperation based on this premise and we will tackle this matter with our brothers in Fatah and with Yasir 'Arafat with perseverance and yet with conviction.

[Question] How far have Syrian-Palestinian conciliation endeavors gone, particularly since you have been charged with directing the dialogue with the Syrian leadership following the PNC meeting in Algiers. And in light of the recent meetings between you and each of messers 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Khaddam and al-Shar', in addition to your previous meetings with President Asad, can the leaders of the three factions that participated in the Algiers session be expected to go back to Damascus soon?

[Answer] Just so the term "charged" is not misconstrued, neither the Syrian leadership nor the PLO leadership charged me with this task. I have been charged by the PFLP leadership that deeply believes that the value of what went on in Algiers lies in the accomplishments being culminated by the restoration of the alliance between the PLO and Syria in preparation for restoring the tripartite alliance (Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian) and as a first step toward the revival of the Steadfastness Front. This is our vision of how the Palestinian situation may be salvaged.

[Question] But Yasir 'Arafat has made statements to the various media to the effect that you have been charged or entrusted with this very task.

[Answer] The fact is that Yasir 'Arafat and I have held bilateral talks touching on the need to renormalize relations between the PLO and Syria. When I went to bid farewell to brother Yasir 'Arafat on my way back from Algiers to Damascus, he expressed his aspirations, hopes and wishes for my success in resolving this problem, but there is no specific tasking by the PLO.

Let us go back to the question at hand which is Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

Our view of the situation in the PFLP compels us to make every effort with the PLO and the brothers in Syria to restore the alliance. Our perception of this subject at this time is based on the premise that it is a very difficult and lengthy process and I am not optimistic about

attaining quick results. I am very optimistic, however, about the end results. Our Palestinian masses still remember how long it took to restore Palestinian national unity. There were moments when certain sectors of our population were wondering whether it could be done. This kind of doubt carried a tacit judgment that this was an ideal process rendered impossible by the Lebanese events. The outcome in Algiers, however, proved that persistent struggle can produce positive results. About Palestinian-Syrian relations, I say again that I am not optimistic about quick results. In the long run, however, this should come about and it will because the Palestinians are bound to realize that it is in the Palestinian revolution's interest to forge an alliance with the regime that refuses to capitulate, that rejects Camp David and that is proceeding with its preparations for a confrontation. Likewise, the day will come when the Syrian side will realize that the confrontation with Israel and the preclusion of unilateral settlements require that Syria's relations with the PLO be strengthened. In this connection, the outcome of Syria's alliance throughout the seventies and early eighties and the gains achieved either by Syria or the PLO are brought to mind.

On the immediate level, I cannot claim any specific or imminent results. Nonetheless, this does not mean that we should despair or give up. I say in all candor that it is the duty of the Palestinian side to adhere to the Algiers meetings to smooth the way for restoring relations between the PLO and Syria. I shall never forget my meeting with President Asad at the heels of the Algiers PNC meetings when I heard him with my ears say: "The outcome in Algiers is a positive step on the right track, but it is not enough." Concerning our experience with the PLO, the PLO leader in particular, we have the right to expect compliance. However, if Yasir 'Arafat is to persist in the kind of compliance he has manifested in recent months, during which he held several meetings with President Mubarak, things will not be easy. If, on the other hand, the Algiers resolutions are adhered to, everything will be different. The fact is that the PLO leadership has failed to live up to the agreements.

[Question] The gulf scene has witnessed some hot developments, including growing American and NATO naval presence in the region. There are over 70 military units sailing the seas there at present. How do you assess the current situation there and what, in your opinion, is the proper way out of the Iraq-Iran war?

[Answer] Regarding my evaluation of the perils, suffice it to quote our central newspaper, *al-Hadaf*, when it described the Iraq-Iran war as the Camp David of the southern front. Whereas Camp David took Egypt out of the Arab-Zionist conflict, this war has done the same with regard to both Iraq and Iran. I do not wish to talk about human casualties nor do I want to talk about economic losses because the mere mention of them is heartbreaking.

When one reads that \$181 billion have been spent on the Iraq-Iran war so far when the tragedies of our Palestinian people and our Arab nation are brought to mind, one can almost lose faith and grow more resentful toward those leaders that are promoting this destructive war. This is the way we feel and our position is clear. We support an immediate end to the fighting, a return to international borders and leaving the matter of changing the Iraqi or the Iranian regime up to the Iraqi or the Iranian people and their national movements. This is our position which is constantly expressed in our newspaper *al-Hadaf*.

As for recent developments concerning the growing presence of military fleets in gulf waters, we demand that all American, Western and any other fleets leave the gulf and we condemn any conduct by either Iraq or Iran that justifies the presence of these forces.

This American and Western presence is one of the objectives of this war. Unfortunately, it has been achieved.

Of course we consider UN Resolution 598 suitable for settling this problem and call for its implementation.

12502

EGYPT

Education Minister Discusses Schools, Curriculum Problems

45040007 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic
30 Sep 87 pp 10-11

[Interview with Education Minister Fathi Surur, by Karimah 'Abd-al-Raziq: "Private Schools and Donations: What Is the Solution?"; date and place not given]

[Text] The clear thinking that President Husni Mubarak proposes as a comprehensive strategy for improving education in Egypt is the beginning of the principal tool for forming the Egyptian human being who bears the integral Egyptian personality, in order to reshape him so that he will be able to rely on himself in building society through his values, which must remain anchored in his depths and consciousness. The desired comprehensive change has therefore required proceeding with deliberate modern reform operations, so that we may reap the fruits that realize the practical educational goals he rightly considered to be the foundation of the desired improvement.

On this path of reform, one can confirm that private education is still a problem that physically and mentally burdens people in charge, due to the rise in tuition fees from kindergarten to the secondary-school level. What is the position of the Ministry of Education now toward this phenomenon that increases from one year to the

next? Has the time come when change of the private education law has become a necessity, to improve it so that every owner of a private school will know his duties and responsibilities?

Dr Fathi Surur, minister of education, answers these and other questions that occupy the minds of teachers and students in the course of his conversation with 29 ministry undersecretaries and more than 50 general directors of educational administrations, as well as in the course of an exclusive conversation with AKHIR SA'AH. From these two conversations, we obtain answers that point to incipient improvement and that give new indication of the attitudes of the director of every educational district in the governorates at the beginning of the new school year. At the beginning of his conversation, Dr Surur said:

[Dr Surur] We can agree that private schools are still a problem requiring a solution at the national level. It is clear now from experience and practice that the profit percentage is much greater than 10 percent, and most of the employees of those schools, though their proportion is great, are over 65 years of age. The question one may raise is: Whose property are these private schools? Are they the property of the ministry? Also, the national institutes—their position and the admission of students to them. Or similarly, the kindergartens, and the provision of appropriate teachers for each subject taught in a foreign language, such as mathematics and science.

[Question] Has changing the private education law in Egypt become a necessity? This question was raised by all the undersecretaries of the ministries and the directors.

[Answer] To date, I have not received any school district director's opinions about how to improve and amend the private education law. Each relevant director or ministry undersecretary is required to express his frank opinion about the present law and specify the sections whose amendment is desired, so as to define all the problems and to define how to solve them in a way satisfying to all the parties concerned, from the school owner to the student and teacher. I request that you do this quickly. Everyone should send his opinion to the head of the services section in the ministry, because the conference on private education will be convened shortly, and all the opinions and suggestions will be reviewed there.

[Question] What is the solution, so that improvement will take place in the private schools that violate the acceptance rules and that seem to be a ministry within the ministry?

[Answer] There are some private schools that accept pupils based on their own special conditions. The ministry does not accept or approve these conditions. For example, when we send one of those schools an endorsement for the acceptance of a student based on his or her having a brother or sister at the school and we require

them to admit this student, we see no response from the school in this case. It is as if they were actually a state within the state. I am explicitly asking the district heads to implement the general rules that require private schools to accept students according to what we think best. I say with utter frankness that the time has come for every private school owner to know his duties and responsibilities. The constitution in Article 18 specifies state supervision over private education.

Language Schools, Donations

[Question] What is the solution in regard to private language schools whose technical staffs of specialized teachers have not yet been completed?

[Answer] We shall order the immediate closure of the private schools that have now been opened, if they do not within a very short time set up their staffs, especially in the subjects of mathematics, science, and English. The fact that these staffs are not available means that there is no seriousness in the educational process at those schools. I say with complete frankness that I am not against the establishment of private language schools that abide by everything the present private education law stipulates and by the directives of operative ministry decisions. I have asked all 26 colleges of education in Egypt to improve themselves and to teach science, mathematics, and foreign languages, so that their graduates can be used in the language schools.

[Question] To date, some private schools still have not obtained supplementary fees for high-cost installations. But there are some schools, though not the majority, that are obtaining tuition fees of 500 pounds or more. What is the solution?

[Answer] Each person in charge is asked not to spend more than the authorized tuition fees. The door of every official in the ministry is open to receive any complaint and investigate it immediately. We shall impose stern penalties on every school that violates the principle of not collecting supplementary fees, whatever the designation behind which these increases hide. The conference on private education will discuss the increase in ordinary tuition, and a reasonable profit margin without any excess will be set.

Some people in charge are complaining that some government schools are collecting the set tuitions, along with additions not recorded in official receipts, under the designation of donations. I say with complete frankness that I will immediately notify the public prosecutor's office of such violations. In no case will I retreat from this decision. This includes owners of private schools. In a word, I shall allow no tuition increase in the public or private sectors of education.

[Question] What is the solution regarding donations in general?

[Answer] Donations are voluntary, and they also must be submitted to the parents' council. The donor must receive a receipt recording his name, the name of the school, and the sum he donated, and the receipt must have a serial number.

Full School Day System

[Question] What is the length that has been decided for the mid-year vacation during the new school year?

[Answer] Provision will be made this year for a 2-week mid-year vacation, with a week devoted to the mid-year examination, and with the second week a vacation. That is the policy of the ministry, and there has to be coordination in vacation schedules.

[Question] Will the full school day system be adhered to this year?

[Answer] Adherence to the full school day system is a necessity. This means that classes may continue to 3 or 4 pm, especially at the secondary-school level. I have given my instructions for direction and strict monitoring of the implementation of these instructions, because some directors and principals are not abiding by this decision. Some governorates are applying it, while others are not. I will not allow a second period at the secondary level until the full day is implemented, although this is possible at the primary and preparatory levels because classroom buildings are not available.

[Question] What are the powers of the school district director in his governorate?

[Answer] The school district director is the regional ruler of education and the minister's representative in the governorate. There is no supervisor over the director in this matter, because he is supervisor of the educational operation in his district.

Textbook Improvement

[Question] What about textbook improvement?

[Answer] There are textbooks that have not had time to be improved. I have decided to eliminate superfluous and excess material from these required courses within a few days so that it will not be taught. This does not mean making things easy for the students; rather, it is from a desire to maintain the information content level of the subject being taught to the students. Also, the elimination of a number of pages will lead to stylistic smoothness of the meaning and concept of the subjects that are taught to students. The principals of all schools and directors of those subjects will be notified. Here is an example: it became clear that one of the required chapters of the physics textbook for second-year high school

students was very difficult and above the level [of the students]. So I asked that this chapter be eliminated. I would call such a deletion operation "deletion for improvement."

[Question] Could you clarify your previous decision about not using unapproved textbooks?

[Answer] I issued a ministerial resolution forbidding the circulation of unapproved textbooks in the schools. There is no prohibition against a student's buying an unapproved textbook. The prohibition is against the unapproved textbook's entering any school. However, it is the student's right to buy the unapproved textbook and use it in his home.

[Question] What is the wisdom of forbidding unapproved textbooks within the school?

[Answer] Because they facilitate cheating, and because they summarize the ministry's books. Summarization deprives the student of the expressions that give ideas, style, imagination, and concept. All of these are important things for the growth of the mind and abilities of the child and student. Thus, the prohibition is for the benefit of the student, because these books really spoil the student's mind and aid in cheating.

Improving Testing Procedures

[Question] You are always saying that improvement of testing procedures is your fundamental problem. How far have you gone in realizing this goal?

[Answer] Improving testing procedures is rightly my problem, because tests ought to measure the student's abilities and the extent of his interaction with the educational process. We are in the process of improving the committee that sets examinations. The problem is one for ministry undersecretaries, experts of the Center for Educational Research, and professors of education in the universities. I am going to convert it from a mere committee on tests to a special or higher council on tests. In its new form, the council will have the task of improving tests at all stages of education prior to the university. With its new make-up, the council will be at the level of the same councils in the advanced countries. For evaluating students by means of tests is a basic operation that depends on the student's mental powers, style of thinking, and intelligence quotient. All of this is incompatible with the method of memorization or the operation of cramming a subject from an unapproved textbook. Therefore, the student who depends on an unapproved textbook or on private lessons will not be able to answer the questions of these tests. I say that improving the style of the tests will help eliminate private lessons, the use of unapproved textbooks, and cheating. All this will lead to respect for the ministry's book.

[Question] Why was the year's work reduced to only 20 percent?

[Answer] This took place by a resolution of the Higher Council on Pre-University Education. It was also the opinion of the teachers' union and the National Council on Education, meaning that there is complete consensus on lowering the level of the year's work. It had become clear that the year's work had in some cases become a means of forcing students to take private lessons. The educational districts will be quickly informed of the reduction decision. This does not mean lack of confidence in the teacher; it comes rather under the category of concern and precaution against factors that might lead to exploitation of the student.

[Question] The general shape of teacher training courses is predominantly formal. Is there anything new in this area?

[Answer] These courses are the responsibility of the education districts. I definitely want the training of teachers to be real, not formal training. For example, I cancelled the personal interview that used to take place after training, as well as the written examination. I proposed that the teacher produce a paper on whose subject he would be questioned by a three-member committee. In this way, one would become acquainted with the teacher's level and the style of his thinking, culture, and information. In general, we shall shortly convene a committee to listen to problems of training, foremost among them the budget and resources, as well as other subjects.

Computers in High School

[Question] What is the story on the computer that is going to be used in high schools?

[Answer] I have issued three ministerial decisions on implementing the national project for introducing computers and their applications at the pre-university instructional level. We have in fact begun asking for the nomination of teachers to be trained in computers. Every director of an educational district is now asked to nominate someone who knows foreign languages. What is required is a teacher who knows just English or French. Concentration now is on the teachers of the Cairo and Giza governorates. The remaining governorates will come later, because branches of the present computer training center for teachers will be opened in each governorate. I have issued a resolution on this matter.

[Question] There are some private schools that have raised their tuition on the pretext of teaching the computer. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Frankly, we have to be alert. The fact is that some private schools have raised their tuition under the slogan of teaching the computer. The subject has thus

turned into a business device for private schools. In general, computers will enter the high schools beginning next year. I say that while we as a ministry implement this project beginning next year, each private school should contract with the specialized companies, but without exploiting the student. The student who receives a computer course must not pay more than 7 pounds a month. I have asked those responsible for the educational districts to make an exhaustive list of the names of schools that will apply the computer system this year.

Many things will be changed by regulations we desire to implement. There will be no laxity at any educational level. There will be strict monitoring of private lessons. If there are to be remedial lessons, let them be inside the schools and under the supervision of the administration. For students taking the general secondary examination, we are going to produce audio-visual lessons that will be available to students by means of video cassette recorders. The appropriate time for showing them to the students will be set in agreement with the teachers of the subject and the director of the school. 12937

JORDAN

Paratroop School Graduates First Class

44040004 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Sep 87 p 2

[Text] Staff Lt Gen Fathi Abu-Talib, chief-of-staff, yesterday morning sponsored the graduation ceremony for the first special paratroop class for the military school students at Mu'tah University.

The ceremony included parachuting by the graduating class, and a presentation by the Special Forces School commander outlining the subjects the trainees covered during the course.

At the end of the ceremony, the chief-of-staff awarded paratroop wings to the graduating class.

The graduation was attended by Dr 'Ali Muhaftaz, president of Mu'tah University, the president's deputy for military affairs, the commander of the 5th Armored Division, the commander of the Special Forces, the director of Moral Guidance, and a number of families of the graduating class.

It is noted that this is the first class to be graduated from the military school of Mu'tah University. This course is considered a basic requirement among the different military subjects taught during the 4-year university course.

On this occasion, the president of the university talked about the duty the university is fulfilling by providing academic and military training for scientific cadres. He said that this university's mission was different from any other in that it combines education and knowledge with the use of weapons and various military sciences.

He added that Mu'tah University includes two branches, one military and the other civilian. The military branch admits students sent by the armed forces and general security to study various majors offered at the university, in addition to military training conducted throughout the entire course.

The civilian branch includes 7 different academic and military majors, and the students receive basic military training which sets them apart from their counterparts in other universities.

Concerning the military aspect of training, the university's vice-president for military affairs said that the course of the class that graduated that morning is considered one of the basic courses for the military school students and a basic requirement for the university degree. He explained the military branch's role in preparing the students to be field commanders through various military courses such as infantry and weapons, as well as commando and paratrop courses offered to the students during their college years.

12502

LEBANON

Economic Expert Describes Nation's Current Financial Problems

44040009a London *AL-HAWADITH* in Arabic
9 Oct 87 pp 19-23

[Interview with Information Minister Michel Iddih: "The Components of a Free Economy Are No Longer Present in Lebanon"]

[Text] In addition to political and economic knowledge and presence and diligent reading which makes a library of his bed, Michel Iddih, the successful lawyer, combines morality, integrity, soundness and objectivity of thought, not to speak of moderation, which has made him constantly acceptable to everyone and an arbiter, not a party to a struggle, as far as Lebanese disputes go. This is what explains his emergence in the Ministry of Information, which he has taken charge of twice and in which he has been a flame, a brilliant presence and a word dispelling animosity and soothing wounds.

In handling economic affairs — the most important issue, as far as the Lebanese go — he is one scholar among few, proceeding from a premise of well-rounded culture and everyday dealings, which are at the heart of his specialization as a lawyer and official.

Al-Hawadith, which considers that Michel Iddih is one of the people active in politics who have the most friendships of all persuasions — friendships which he uses to serve Lebanon, its people and its causes — had an appointment with him this week, and the occasion gave birth to this interview:

AL-HAWADITH: At the present time we are going through a murderous, escalating life crisis. Although at various stages we have previously witnessed numerous security incidents in the form of kidnappings, murders on the basis of identity, bombings, destruction, assassinations and massacres, still, the likes of what is happening now had not happened. Why has the crisis been so aggravated? Why are we now feeling this danger and fear of total collapse?

Michel Iddih: There are a number of reasons for that. We must realize first of all that the Lebanese war has gone on for 12 years. It is natural, after such a period, that conditions regarding the people's capacity to endure and the ability of public and private institutions to keep going will no longer be as they were.

In general there are two basic elements: the first is foreign and the second is domestic. Both have contributed negatively, and have brought us to the tragic situation we are facing now.

We must remember first of all that the beginning of the Lebanese war occurred in conjunction with an unprecedented economic boom in the countries of the Gulf, thanks to the tremendous rise in oil prices, which shifted from \$2 to approximately \$34 per barrel. This prosperity was reflected on us in a positive manner and in this way benefitted not the Lebanese government but all the Lebanese, of the various Christian and Islamic sects, since hundreds of thousands of them moved to the countries of the Gulf to work there in various areas — not to mention a large number of Lebanese organizations and factories which have been operating in Lebanon and exporting the bulk of their products and commodities to the countries of the Gulf. It is worth mentioning that this migration had a special character distinct from migrations in other countries of the world, since it was temporary and was not aimed at settlement in the host countries, except for some rare cases, and the profits the Lebanese reaped were in large measure remitted to Lebanon. This in a major way helped preserve the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound, which on an average did not exceed five to the dollar till the end of 1984, thanks to the constant flow of foreign currencies as a result of this activity, which helped maintain a surplus balance of payments.

At the same time, that is, between 1975 and 1982, in spite of the war activity, destruction and violence, the country and its institutions continued to operate in a nearly normal manner and perform the minimum of services and obligations for citizens in all areas.

For its part, Lebanese economic activity improved thanks to the contribution made by the capital of Lebanese citizens scattered throughout the Gulf and Africa, and due to a kind of de facto decentralization which actually emerged as a result of the battles and acts of destruction which afflicted Beirut and its suburbs. The Lebanese regions and rural areas witnessed a process of

construction, economic development and prosperity which was unprecedented, although that was at the expense of the city of Beirut, the capital.

However, since 1982, foreign and domestic factors started to operate in an adverse manner. They had a negative effect on the economy, on the currency and on the government's institutions as well. In the foreign context, the oil crisis and the decline in incomes derived from oil greatly limited economic activity in the Gulf countries and consequently affected the Lebanese who were working in these countries. At the same time, the aggravation of the situation in Lebanon prompted many of them to restrict their remittances to Lebanon or to stop them altogether and send them to the countries of Europe and America, especially Canada and Australia, where a number of them started to settle down.

In the domestic context, the Israeli invasion and its aftershocks gradually led to the dismemberment of the country and the paralysis of traffic and trade among regions. Moreover, one must say that the departure of the Palestinians and the shift of their main economic base from Lebanon had a negative effect on the flow of capital and inflicted harm, however limited, on a number of sectors in some areas in addition to what this anarchical armed presence did to contribute to the outbreak and inflammation of the events, and the destruction of the Lebanese infrastructure.

On the other hand, the war of the mountains in 1983, and the events of Beirut in February 1984, then the events of the al-Kharub and East Sidon region in 1985, which caused the flight of the Christians from there, the boycott which occurred at the beginning of 1986 and led to the paralysis of the council of ministers' activities and the rupture of relations between the office of the prime minister and the office of the chairman of parliament on the one hand and the office of the president on the other — all these successive, accumulated events led in reality to the fragmentation and paralysis of the institutions and the establishment of de facto organizations in their place.

Thus the government found itself practically deprived of revenues coming from taxes and levies, customs duties, water, electricity and telephone tariffs and the collection of the bulk of municipality levies, at a time when the government's burdens increased as a result of the impoverishment which the people were suffering and the destruction and losses which the acts of war and violence had created.

In reality, everyone knows that the currency is a reflection of the political and economic situation in a given country. If there are numerous industrial countries which experience serious financial vicissitudes because of economic crises at a time when political stability prevails, do we in Lebanon have the right to be amazed that the Lebanese pound is deteriorating at a time when

Lebanon is being subjected to unprecedented political and economic crisis, and finds itself faced with an innumerable amount of destructive and ruinous factors?

It should not be surprising, therefore, from what I have said, that the situation toward the end of 1987 is totally, radically different from the situation which prevailed at the beginning of the events in Lebanon in 1975. It should therefore be understood that the facts have totally changed. Therefore we can say that the crisis has now entered its most dangerous stage, because it has been established that the Lebanese, more than any other people, perhaps, have been affected not so much by the destructive acts of war or the acts of murder, kidnappings on the basis of identity, booby-trapped cars, bombing and destruction as by the economic difficulties which have been reflected on the social situation. In our present era, it has been established that the criterion of a country's importance is no longer geographic area or population, or military strength, but economic strength. For example, Japan and West Germany, which lost the war, were reduced in status geographically and no longer have a military role worth mentioning but nonetheless occupy two main positions in the world thanks to their firm economic situation and their prosperity.

Lebanon, in particular, in spite of its small geographic area and population, has been able to occupy a distinguished economic position thanks to its strong economy and the creative activity of its people domestically and abroad. Therefore, it has been affected more than any other country in the world by this basic factor.

AL-HAWADITH: It is to be understood from your answer that the political and security factor is playing a major role in the economic crisis, but don't you consider that there are pure economic causes arising from the nature of the economic system on which Lebanon is based?

Michel Iddih: For a while, because of the economic crisis and the social repercussions arising from it, voices have arisen here and there raising questions for the first time about the soundness of the free Lebanese system and whether it is no longer preferable for the government to play an increasing role in the economy, intervene in the banking sector and economic institutions and perform oversight of some foreign currency sale and purchase activities, in an effort to strengthen the Lebanese pound. At the same time, some people have attempted to reconsider the bank secrecy law based on the argument that it encourages illegal activities and inflicts harm on the domestic economy.

At the outset it is necessary to observe that in a country like Lebanon, even in time of prosperity, same as all developing countries, it is difficult, indeed totally out of the question, to apply statutes in general, and that these are converted into an instrument for a small number of officials which they use for their own interests and goals, exploiting their influence and amassing wealth at the

expense of the people. If this problem exists under normal conditions, imagine what the situation is like under the current state of fragmentation and division, where the government institutions are practically absent, Lebanese territory is divided up and open to pillage, surveillance of the borders is impossible and government officials pursue their functions only in most limited conditions, and where the whole notion of government is absent? Is it possible, since such are the circumstances, to find persons and a structure which can guarantee the application of statutes and the exercise of oversight at a time when there is no single sector in which the law is applied and it is generally not possible to apply it realistically?

In any case, assuming that the conditions are met, especially with respect to the activity of the administration and the courts, it is necessary to say that economic oversight statutes and the restrictions relied upon in economic, financial and monetary areas in general are not suited to Lebanon.

If there are countries in the world which at some time have relied upon surveillance of the movement of persons and capital, and overall economic and financial activity, that is because these countries, at a specific stage, sought to protect their natural resources and prevent the flight of capital from them, to avoid their impoverishment and to maintain their economy.

This was never Lebanon's situation, because it is basically a very poor country which does not possess any natural resources or energy source and where the wealth by which it is characterized has not been realized in Lebanon but has been imported from abroad by means of the Lebanese dispersed and working in all areas of the world who have remitted their money to Lebanon. These facts were the major element which has prompted Lebanon to rely on a free economic system since the end of World War II. It is a system which has been proved to be tailored to Lebanon specifically. Indeed, not only has Lebanon not had to prevent the smuggling of local wealth which basically did not exist — rather, to the contrary, it has done the impossible and still is doing it to attract the money amassed by Lebanese abroad for the purpose of investment in Lebanon to serve the domestic economy.

On the other hand, Lebanon, by virtue of being a sanctuary, has continued to attract foreign capital seeking security and stability and consequently it has continued to adhere to the full freedom of the movement of people and capital, because how can one reasonably convince people with capital to remit their money to Lebanon if they no longer have a guarantee of the possibility of remitting it abroad at any time, unconditionally and without restriction? It is clear that the imposition of the most minor restriction on the movement of capital abroad from Lebanon would have the effect of making Lebanon lose its credibility and the trust it enjoys, and at the same time of paralyzing the flow of foreign remittances to it.

Moreover, the free economic system is distinguished by being based on personal initiative, which, as everyone knows, is the main and true motivating force of the Lebanese economy. Experience has proved, unfortunately, that the government's pursuit of its role in a number of economic and productive sectors has not been fruitful or encouraging and has not contributed to the development of the country.

The free system has not been responsible for the catastrophe which has befallen us — indeed, the contrary, since Lebanon has managed to persevere for 12 years in spite of its poverty and the lack of resources and natural wealth in it, and in spite of the destructive, vicious war which was imposed on it, and this is thanks only to the free economic system.

AL-HAWADITH: If we accept these Lebanese economic constants, don't you think that there also has been chaos and exploitation of a sort in practice?

Michel Iddih: Here it is necessary to distinguish between two stages, the first extending from the end of World War Two to 1975, and the second from the beginning of the Lebanese ordeal to today. In the first stage, that is, the one in which institutions existed and functioned, one can say that in spite of the many excesses and wrongful practices, and some shortcomings which could have been corrected, the free system worked and at least proved its ability to succeed. In any event, all statutes, whatever their type might be, must after actual implementation be subjected to a correction process so that better results may be obtained.

However, since the beginning of the in 1975, especially since 1982, is it still possible to talk about a free economic system in Lebanon while the law is no longer being applied, in the context of the collapse of the government's institutions and in the state of comprehensive war and lack of security which dominate all of Lebanon?

In reality, the free system is before all else a system — that is, there are basic laws and principles which must be respected and applied, including, by way of mention:

Respect for and protection of individual initiative, although within an atmosphere of equality of opportunity.

The guarantee of conditions for competition.

The struggle against monopoly.

Consumer protection.

The struggle against illegal speculation.

The struggle against fraud.

The guarantee of proper procedure for the courts and the granting of power to the executive authority to carry out their rulings.

These are by way of mention some of the components of the free system. Where are we with regard to them, now that the institutions of the government, as previously stated, are not operating, the law is not applied, and citizens have no guarantee of the protection of their rights, lives and property?

For this reason it is wrong to say that we are now living in the framework of a free economic system. We are in reality living in the framework of the law of the jungle. Our goal, indeed our hope, is for us someday to return to the free economic system which was principally to be thanked for Lebanon's prosperity, bearing in mind that it is necessary to carry out some necessary reforms and changes which will guarantee that this system will be enabled to play its part in the proper, desired form. The solution is not, as some people imagine, to advocate the suspension, elimination or abandonment of the free system and its replacement by another system.

AL-HAWADITH: As part of the actual state of this free system there is the banking system, and bank secrecy specifically. Do you believe that the law on bank secrecy has had a negative effect on the economic and financial situation we have reached? Has the law on bank secrecy realized the objective for which it was set out?

Michel Iddih: This question by itself requires lengthy, separate discussion, but I will try to be brief with regard to it.

In 1956, when Raymond Iddih presented the proposal of the law on bank secrecy in Lebanon, his objective in reality was to reassure resident and expatriate Lebanese and give them an additional feeling of safety and confidence at a time when all the countries of the region had started to witness revolutions and military coups which soon thereafter extended to Mediterranean countries like Greece and Turkey.

The law on bank secrecy was published on 3 September 1956 and 2 months after that the tripartite aggression against Egypt occurred, with all the political and economic consequences that resulted from it. In the course of 1957, Syria and Jordan were the stage of political events and shocks which to a serious extent helped infuse tension into their stability and shake their economic condition. In 1958, unity between Egypt and Syria took place. Then there occurred the civil war in Lebanon, and on 14 July 1958 the Iraqi revolution took place. All these events affected the economic situation in the region.

In Lebanon, however, thanks to the banking system, which continued to operate in a normal manner, and thanks to the law on bank secrecy which continued to be applied strictly, these two elements contributed in a major form, after the return to the normal situation in

October 1958, to the development of the economy and the realization of an unprecedented prosperity thereafter, as a result of the political stability which Lebanon was blessed with for 17 years between 1958 and 1975.

During this period, thanks to the system of bank secrecy, Beirut became a first rate financial center. The main international banks, including the banks of the socialist countries, established themselves there.

However, beginning in 1975, and especially in 1982, foreign capital began leaving Lebanon, and the overwhelming majority of foreign banks suspended their activity for good or reduced it substantially. Bank secrecy then played a role different from its former role. However, it continued to be fundamental to the Lebanese economy, since, in spite of the various acts of war, destruction and dispossession and the destruction of institutions, the banking sector is continuing to operate, and, in spite of the dozens or more accurately hundreds of incidents of aggression against banks and in spite of the invasions and occupations and the dominance the foreign or local organizations and militias have intensified here and there, the bank secrecy statute has remained in existence, and adherence to it has been the decisive element behind the credibility and confidence which have prompted the Lebanese, residents and expatriates, to keep deposits in foreign currencies ranging from \$2.7 to \$3 billion in the banks in Lebanon.

Thanks to the banking system and the bank secrecy law, hundreds of millions of dollars have still been remitted annually to Lebanon from abroad and have helped support the domestic economy, and the Lebanese balance of payments has remained in surplus some years, even after the 1982 invasion and the events which followed it.

As I said previously, the economy and currency are before all else a matter of trust and credibility. The United States and England for example have recently proved that, since thanks to the climate of trust and credibility which President Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher have succeeded in creating in their countries, without any other specific considerations, these two countries have managed to improve and strengthen their economy and currency.

If any measures or restrictions by chance arise in the bank secrecy law in Lebanon at the present time, in the climate of anxiety, indeed fear, which the country is going through, successive interconnected reactions will result from that because of a loss of confidence and credibility, the capital in foreign currency which is still deposited in Lebanon will start to flee at once, and the collapse of the banking system and therefore the Lebanese economic system will follow. Every Lebanese must realize that it is not reasonable that experiments or tests occur or that improvisational measures be taken in this area which is sensitive and vital for Lebanon.

Violations and acts of exploitation have occurred, and no one denies this. Can we, however, be surprised by that or be astonished over it in the tragic situation our miserable country is experiencing? Why should that be a source of complaint and particular condemnation at a time when we have witnessed a permanent, ongoing violation of the laws and statutes, usurped inviolable rights, security which is not guaranteed to anyone and assassinations and acts of destruction which are our daily bread, and the destruction is on the verge of being total? Is it logical, since this is the case, to make excuses because of excesses, however serious they might be, to intimidate a sector and a statute which deserve the credit for Lebanon's prosperity and will play the major role in the restoration of its normal life when this storm ends?

AL-HAWADITH: There is no doubt that what you have said is helping dispel much confusion, but most of the people still say that the economic crisis we are going through has a political cause, that it will be resolved only in the event of political reconciliation, and that such a reconciliation seems far fetched at the present time — indeed, to the contrary, we are witnessing an intensification of positions on the part of all parties and at the same time the economic and social crisis is fermenting and becoming aggravated, and the citizen can no longer wait. Do you believe that there is a possibility of relying on measures bearing on the economic crisis while the political crisis is being resolved?

Michel Iddih: It saddens me to say that the escalation we are witnessing in the economic crisis is contrived and there is no reason for the Lebanese pound to be deteriorating in this manner. I have the painful feeling that all the groups combatting on the stage are trying to exploit the weapon of economic and social crisis to put pressure on one another so that each of them will be convinced that in this way he will be able to obtain further gains and impose more concessions on the other group.

To act this way is to play with fire. All the people, of the various regions and factions, are falling victim to it, and it is bringing us to the abyss.

I had previously said in a television debate that the economic situation is not so fraught with crisis as some people are trying to portray it and that to a large extent it is fabricated. Premier al-Huss had previously declared, at a press conference on 10 August 1987, that the treasury's condition was sound, since the ratio "of total foreign assets (gold and foreign currencies) in the possession of the Bank of Lebanon to total liquidity in Lebanese pounds (on 10 August 1987) came to more than 500 percent on the basis of the price relied on in calculating dollars relative to the pound, while this ratio came only to about 60 percent on 30 April 1984, that is, the eve of the establishment of the current cabinet."

If we rely on another method of computation, and take into consideration the treasury's domestic debt, including Central Bank loans and total-treasury bonds, which

in 1983 came to approximately 21 billion pounds, the value of this domestic debt in that period equalled \$4.3 billion, since the average exchange rate of the dollar in this period came to 4.80 Lebanese pounds. That is, this domestic debt in reality was depleting all the reserves of the Central Bank.

If we take into account the treasury's entire domestic debt, which now comes to approximately 120 billion Lebanese pounds, and if we rely on the exchange rate of the dollar which now on the average comes to 275 Lebanese pounds per dollar, the treasury's total domestic debt will then currently equal approximately \$435 million, while the reserves of gold in the possession of the Central Bank come to 9.22 million ounces, equalling, at an average price of \$460 per ounce of gold, \$4.24 billion. To that one should add the foreign currency reserves of about \$300 million in the possession of the Central Bank. The total reserves of gold and foreign currencies in the Central Bank then come to approximately \$4.5 billion, that is, 10 times the treasury's total domestic debt. The Central Bank then is left with a surplus in reserves of approximately \$4 billion.

As Premier al-Huss said at his abovementioned press conference, "The power to confront the deterioration in currency is much greater today than it was previously, and the credit for this goes to no one. The citizen has paid a high price for the phenomenon out of his standard of living, and he has the right today to use this power to prevent further deterioration and subsequently to protect himself from paying a further price out of his daily bread."

Consequently, the purpose of the notion which Premier al-Huss expressed, of "creating a special fund to support the Lebanese pound," is to preserve the stability of Lebanese currency and put a limit to the drain to which the Lebanese currency is being subjected. That is the most suitable measure for remedying the monetary and economic situation while the political crisis is being resolved. There is no doubt that this fund, which can be created by liquidating 20 percent of the gold, that is, by creating \$850 million to support the pound, will play the main role in stabilizing the monetary situation. It is worth mentioning, as Premier al-Huss said, that liquidating 20 percent of the gold does not mean spending it and that establishing the fund with the power described could make it possible to dispense with disbursing it, since its mere establishment will be a cause of confidence in its ability to prevent further monetary deterioration and it will consequently constitute a suppressant of the insane rush to gamble on the dollar against the pound. The monetary picture might be reversed and demand for the pound might be renewed as a result of renewed confidence.

At that point it is expected that a number of people holding foreign currencies who receive interest of no more than 6 percent on dollars will abandon this currency and exchange it for Lebanese pounds, on which the average interest comes to approximately 25 percent.

At that point it will then be in the capability of the Central Bank to intervene as a buyer of the foreign currencies offered, that is, the establishment of this fund could as a consequence be a cause for the strengthening of Lebanon's official reserves of foreign assets rather than their attrition.

I previously said, repeatedly, that I totally support the submission of Premier al-Huss' plan, and I am sad to say that this project has not been understood in its actual situation and that it has been subjected to politicization like others, and in my view, no matter what the motives might be for deferring it or failing to adopt it at the present time, it remains the optimum solution to the monetary problem we are facing.

AL-HAWADITH: In conclusion, what is your conception of the country's future? Is it possible to rebuild the economy and return to the era of prosperity in Lebanon?

Michel Iddih: There is no doubt that all that is contingent on the political solution which we hope to arrive at as soon as possible. If I add to what I have pointed out concerning the soundness and firmness of the treasury's condition at the present time (although that is at the expense of the people's standard of living), it is worth pointing out that the foreign currency reserves present in Lebanon in the possession of the private sector come to approximately \$2.7 billion, as I mentioned before, and the foreign currency reserves in the possession of the Lebanese who are dispersed or resident abroad come to at least ten times this figure, that is, are equal to \$25 to \$30 billion approximately — not to mention that Lebanese activity abroad is increasing day by day and is increasing the Lebanese people's financial power. This power and wealth are distributed among all Lebanese working abroad and all the members of the factions equally. Everyone hopes and dreams to return to Lebanon when Lebanon returns to itself and regains its vigor and to move his activities back there, if only in part.

The conclusion of everything I have said is that a people like the Lebanese, who, in spite of all the ordeals and catastrophes that have come down on them, have proved their unlimited ability to overcome difficulties and an unprecedented vitality, are worthy of a life of value, perseverance with honor and complete strong sovereignty.

11887

SAUDI ARABIA

Cost Of Living Declines for Foreigners
44040006b Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 12 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] The cost of living indices have shown further stability despite slight upward and downward fluctuations in the cost of major expenditure categories such as housing, food, medical care, education, communications, clothing and so on.

The most recent economic survey of cost of living indices for the kingdom's inhabitants (both Saudis and non-Saudis), conducted by the general statistics department in 10 Saudi towns of various sizes and locations, has shown that the cost of living rates are stable, but that a slight increase is seen with respect to five major expenditure categories. These are: food commodities, medical care, transportation and communication, education, and entertainment. There has been a noticeable decrease for the citizens with respect to housing and clothing.

Meanwhile rates with respect to non-Saudis have generally shown a decline of 3.6 percent, "including the relative rise and fall in the rates of the major categories."

The general statistics department said that in early 1988 it will begin amending and revising the cost of living indices. The department called on those who would benefit from the publications of such statistical studies on cost of living indices to submit their suggestions and requirements in the context of the changes that are needed to serve economic objectives.

13305

SYRIA

Water Resource Problems Reviewed

Water Resources of Coastal Basin
*44040012a Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
11 Sep 87 p 9*

[Article by 'Abd-al-Hamid Sulayman: "The Coastal Basin: Its Water Resources Exceed Its Actual Needs"]

[Text] The coastal basin is distinguished by its broad area (it extends from the border of Turkey in the north to the border of Lebanon in the south) and its great water intake. Total water intake in the basin comes to 2,335,000,000 cubic meters a year; 1,157,000,000 cubic meters of this are surface resources and 778 million cubic meters are springs and groundwater.

The area of this basin comes to 5,100 square kilometers, and the annual rainfall ranges from 800 to 2,000 millimeters. The basin of the coast is considered one of the most abundant in water of the basins in Syria and it is the only one in which water resources exceed the basin's actual needs.

A general irrigation department has been created in the region of the basin which takes charge of Ministry of Irrigation's tasks in the basin, the study of projects, supervision of their execution and the exploitation of projects after completion.

Groundwater

Studies have been set forth on this basin in cooperation with Soviet experts and local technical committees have been formed to follow up on the study, benefit from it, present reports and recommendations and carry them out. On returning to these studies, we have found that the basin has been broken down into two branch basins. These are:

The al-Basit basin and the basin of the western slope of the coast mountains. These contain seven secondary basins.

The renewable groundwater reserve comes to 290 million cubic meters a year and the quantities of it that were used in 1976 came to 125 million cubic meters. That is, the amount remaining to be used that year was 165 million cubic meters, of which 3.5 million cubic meters were in the al-Basit basin and 16.5 million cubic meters in the basin of the western slope of the coast mountain range.

The most important quantity of unused groundwater is in the secondary basin of the Tartus surface, which comes to 150 million cubic meters, of which only about 35 million cubic meters were used up to 1976.

The only area which is in a water deficit situation with respect to the basin is the secondary basin of the Latakia surface where the deficit comes to 3 million cubic meters a year. That has resulted from the increased use of groundwater in this basin.

Surface Water

The coast basin has been broken down into 13 hydrological basins, with average annual flows in million cubic meters as follows: Southern al-Kabir River, 367; Al-Abrash River, 76; Al-Ghamqah River, 50; Al-Hasin River, 98; Al-Marqabah River, 88; Baniyas River, 13; Jubar River, 35; Harisun River, 72; Al-Sinn River, 17; Al-Rus River, 35; Al-Sanawbar River, 117; North al-Kabir River, 357; remainder of the coastal basin, 232; with a total of 1,557 million cubic meters.

These surface resources are used on a narrow scale, but in recent years the government has devoted special attention to the use of this water in the irrigation of farmland, since a study is being made and a number of irrigation projects are being carried out based on the construction of storage dams, some of which are under study and the construction of others of which has started. The most important of these projects are the North al-Kabir River, which it has been planned will irrigate areas estimated at 14,000 hectares, the project to develop the 'Akkar plain, with an area totalling 2,400 hectares, and the al-Sanawbar irrigation project, with an area of 10,000 hectares.

Drinking Water

Annual water consumption of the total coast basin population is estimated as follows: 67 million cubic meters for 1980; 193 for 1990; and 261 for the year 2000.

The studies the Soviet organizations have carried out have offered some recommendations. The most important of the recommendations in this area is that of allocating the waters of the al-Sinn sources for drinking purposes in all coastal towns and for a large number of mountain villages. In this instance irrigation water for lands currently irrigated by the sources of the al-Sinn will be provided by erecting storage dams in the neighboring area.

Irrigation and Agriculture

Water consumption for the purposes of agriculture is estimated as follows:

In 1980, water consumption was estimated at 424 million cubic meters and the area irrigated came to 42,300 hectares. Water consumption in 1990 will come to 517 million cubic meters and the irrigated area will come to 57,000 hectares. In 2000 water consumption will come to 544 million cubic meters and the irrigated area to 67,500 hectares.

Major Irrigation Projects

There are a number of irrigation projects distributed over the area of the coast basin, from north to south. These projects are:

The 'Akkar plain irrigation project, with an area of 24,000 hectares, of which 16,000 hectares are irrigated by the water of four dams erected on the Marqabah, Jamal, al-Hasin and al-Ghamqah rivers. The remaining area is irrigated by groundwater present in the region with the recommendation that sprinkler irrigation be applied over 7,000 hectares.

The al-Abrash irrigation project, with an area of 8,700 hectares, which will be irrigated by a dam to be erected on the al-Abrash river with a storage capacity of 4,500 hectares. Part of that will be irrigated by the water of the proposed dam on the bank of the South al-Kabir river, with a storage volume of 17 million cubic meters, and the other portion will be irrigated from the al-Nasiriyah springs and the groundwater available in the region.

The al-Sinn irrigation project will be developed so that irrigation water will be provided for the area currently irrigated, which comes to 900 hectares, from dams to be erected in the region in place of the water of the source of the al-Sinn, which will be allotted to drinking purposes. A new area of 8,000 hectares will also be irrigated.

The Jubar project, with a total area of 2,000 hectares, which will be irrigated from the waters of a dam to be erected on the Jubar river with a storage capacity of 15.6 million cubic meters.

Utilization of Surface Water

Surface water in the basin of the coast will be used for agricultural purposes by means of the al-Sinn irrigation network, and this use will be regulated by the supervision of the related official agencies. With the creation of the coast basin department, these activities are now carried out through the department.

The establishment of a large number of storage dams has taken place to store surface waters. The most important of these are:

The Balluran dam, which stores 15.5 million cubic meters.

The al-Haffah dam, which stores 1.5 million cubic meters.

The Burmana dam, which stores 1.36 million cubic meters.

The Kafir Dubayl dam, which stores 1.5 million cubic meters.

The Karsana dam, which stores 390,000 cubic meters.

The Saqiyah Sadiq dam, which stores 550,000 cubic meters.

The al-Qanjarah dam, which stores 77,000 cubic meters.

Work is also taking place to construct the North al-Kabir river (16 October) dam, with the irrigation system subordinate to it, which will irrigate 13,100 at the end of 1988. It will embark on irrigation activities as of 1 August 1987, undertaking to irrigate 700 hectares, and the irrigated areas will follow in succession until they total 13,100 hectares at the end of 1988. This project is being given great attention on the part of the party and the government and receives much followup at the highest levels.

In addition there are the al-Sanawbar, al-Huwayz, al-Safarqiyah, al-Marqabah and Khalifah dams.

The al-Thawrah dam project: a start has been made on work on the body of the dam, the study of the irrigation systems connected to it will be completed before the end of 1987, and a start will be made on the construction at the beginning of 1988. This dam will irrigate about 9,000 hectares, and modern techniques of sprinkling and drip irrigation will be used in it.

The Salah-al-Din dam in the al-Qardahah area (al-Safarqiyah): the body of the dam has been finished and a start has been made on the irrigation systems belonging to it, which will irrigate about 1,500 hectares. The first stage of that, 700 hectares, will be completed with the start of the coming irrigation season, 1988, and the second stage, 800 hectares, will be completed at the end of 1988.

The al-Huwayr dam project: This will irrigate about 300 hectares and will be completed on 1 May 1988, in addition to a cycle supplying Table 80 which belongs to the irrigation systems of the al-Sinn project. In addition, an actual start has been made on the Khalifah dam irrigation systems by the General Water Projects Company, and the awards for the remaining sections will be subsequently given to general construction companies.

As for the groundwater, its use is regulated by the government in accordance with legislation issued by it in this regard. The most important of this is the decree on Law 165 for 1958, which regulated the matters of water use in general and the special decrees which regulated permit grant affairs.

With respect to the manifestations of salt formation which are likely to appear in some areas of the coast basin, this matter has been taken into consideration in the irrigation and drainage projects the Ministry of Irrigation is studying and carrying out. Even the phenomenon of salt formation in the 'Akkar plain caused by the sea (and an internal marine onslaught) has been taken into account, and this phenomenon will disappear. The studies recommend the execution of the legislation that has been issued, the prohibition of well drilling without permits, the grant of priority in the uses of al-Sinn source water to drinking purposes on the broadest scale possible, the performance of a detailed study of the al-Sinn basin with the purpose of defining its flow and supply system, the provision of an integrated plan for the use of its water, the reduction of volumes going to waste out to sea to the lowest possible degree, acceleration in the construction of the north al-Kabir river project with the irrigation system subordinate to that, and acceleration as well in the construction of the 'Akkar plain and al-Nasiriyah project to use surface waters in the al-Abrash, al-'Arus and south al-Kabir rivers and a number of springs and temporary watercourses in a manner integrated with groundwater, whose presence in good quantities has been proved in this part of the basin.

Use of the surplus water in the coast basin in adjacent areas in accordance with carefully studied plans.

Thus the coast basin, contrary to the other basins in Syria, is suffering from a lack of use of all the water resources in it, and the surplus water is going to the sea.

Orontes Basin Water Deficit
44040012a Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
11 Sep 87 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Hamid Sulayman: "The Orontes Basin: Depletion of Groundwater Reserves and a Deficit in Its Internal Resources"]

[Text] The Orontes basin is one of the important water basins in the country. The importance of this basin arises from its extensive length and breadth, since its area comes to 16,200 square kilometers and the annual rate of rainfall to 140 to 1,850 millimeters, and the average total water resources in this basin are 2,454 million cubic meters a year, 890 million cubic meters of which are surface resources and 1,509 million cubic meters springs and groundwater.

This is in addition to the population density spread over it and the agricultural expertise of its people — indeed their deep experience in farming and the fertility of the farmland.

This basin has been broken down into four peripheral basins containing 12 secondary basins. The renewable groundwater reserves come to 406 million cubic meters a year, of which 309 million cubic meters a year were used in 1976 — that is, the amount left for use in that year was 97 million cubic meters a year. The greatest quantity of unused groundwater is present in Branch Basin One, the West Arab Rift; this comes to 77 million cubic meters, of which 47 million cubic meters are to be found in the al-Rawj depression secondary basin, while a large deficit in water resources is to be observed in the secondary basin of the eastern part of the Hums depression, amounting to 18 million cubic meters, because of the depletion of the groundwater reserve as a result of the increase in use. There are 55 million cubic meters in Branch Basin One. Studies refer to the possibility of producing this by lowering the natural water table by increasing pressure.

Groundwater

The Orontes basin is considered a single basin from the hydrological standpoint and the Orontes river constitutes the main water artery in it.

The volume of the average surface flow in this basin comes to about 1,003,000,000 cubic meters a year, of which 912 million cubic meters are from inflows of water within the country. The surface flow intake at the Lebanese border is 91 million cubic meters. The surface flow intake at the Turkish border is 1,003,000,000 cubic meters, and the most important sources of the surface flow in the country are the Sarut river, whose water intake is 37 million cubic meters, the Salhab river, whose water intake is 15 million cubic meters, the al-Abyad river, whose water intake is 80 million cubic meters, and the al-Rawj plain, whose water intake is 36 million cubic meters of water a year.

Human Consumption

The annual water consumption of the total population of the Orontes basin has been estimated as follows:

In 1980, consumption was estimated at 343.5 million cubic meters per year. Consumption in 1990 will be 525.5 million cubic meters per year and in 2000 consumption will be 675.5 million cubic meters per year.

Irrigation and Farming

Water consumption for purposes of farming has been estimated as follows:

Water consumption in 1980 was 1,003,000,000 cubic meters a year and the irrigated area was 92,300 hectares.

In 1990, water consumption will be 1,353,000,000 cubic meters and the irrigated area 138,000 hectares.

In 2000 water consumption will be 2,598,000,000 cubic meters and the irrigated areas 246,000 hectares.

This plan relies on the performance and construction of a number of projects, most important of which are:

The Orontes and Qatinah project, with an area of 10,500 hectares.

The Hums-al-Silmiyah project, with an area of 42,600 hectares.

The al-Suqaylabiyah-Khan Shaykhun project, with an area of 16,000 hectares.

The al-Sarut irrigation project, with an area of 6,000 hectares.

The al-Dawrat valley irrigation project, with an area of 23,000 hectares.

Intrinsic water resources in the Orontes basin are insufficient to provide these projects' requirements in addition to the increasing requirements of drinking water and industry. The plan recommends the transfer of a quantity of 500 million cubic meters of surplus water in the coast basin to the Orontes basin in 2000 after the provision of all the coast basin's water requirements.

Irrigation Systems

The channels present in the upper Orontes branch off from the Orontes river at the Syrian-Lebanese border and irrigate about 40,000 donums.

The Hums Irrigation System

The Hums irrigation system is an old system and is now more than 40 years of age. It irrigates more than 220,000 donums in the Governorates of Hums and Hamah.

The al-Hulah Irrigation System

Its area is 22,000 donums. It makes use of the Taldun dam, which stores about 15 million cubic meters. The purpose in constructing this dam is to divert floods from the plain and to irrigate these areas.

The basin department maintains the Qatinah, al-Rustun and Mihradah dams. This maintenance consists of attention to electrical and mechanical equipment and also attention to the body of the dam from the civil standpoint and periodic topographic readings to determine whether there have been drops or changes in the body of the dam and measure leaks from the body of the dam to determine its state of soundness.

New projects

Five canals branch off from the Orontes dam at the Syrian-Lebanese border, but these canals are earthen and have large cross sections. Consequently the quantities of water which are wasted in them could irrigate an area equal to the area irrigated. This calls for the construction of just two channels, one to the right of the river and the other to its left, and more than 100,000 donums can be irrigated with the same discharge or supply which currently passes through these channels. This project began with a study on it at the end of last year. A segment of the canal to the right was awarded to the irrigation company with a contract worth 7 million to cover 7 kilometers of the Jawsiyah canal and it is studying the second stage, whose cost is equal to the cost of the first stage. It is expected that the two channels will be completed at the end of this year.

The project to develop the al-Ghab, whose area comes to 72,000 hectares, including the Tar al-'Ala and al-'Asharina and al-Ghab plains. This has the goal of developing the agricultural areas horizontally and vertically. This will be realized through the construction of modern channels preventing the waste of land and evaporation, a temporary (automatic) system and dams which will collect water in winter and prevent it from going to waste into the sea, to preserve it till the summer season, the season of water need.

The most important of these dams:

The al-Sarut dam, the Salhab dam, the Abu Ba'rah dam, the Afamiya dam, the Karnaz dam, the Zayzun and Qastun dams, and a dam on the al-Abyad river.

These dams play a big role in preventing floods on the plain in winter, preventing water loss, generating electric power and providing the plain's water requirements.

Future Plans and Projects

A study of dams in the upper Orontes (a dam on Lebanese territory, the al-Harmal dam) and a dam at the Syrian-Lebanese border, the Zaytah dam. These dams

play a part in regulating the flow in the river bottom, preventing the threat of floods and providing water for drought years, and they play a role in regulating water drainage and industrial and irrigation use.

In the Governorate of Hums:

Lake Qatinah: More than 60 million cubic meters of water are lost annually through evaporation because of its breadth and the shallowness of the water in it. The greatest depth in it is 7 meters. This lake must be deepened to an acceptable limit while not affecting its aesthetic and tourist features and consequently fertile land of 6,000 hectares must be created in the area drained.

Thus water which had been going to waste through evaporation will be saved. It is therefore inevitable that a dam be erected alongside the dam at a distance of 7 kilometers from it, to be called the great Hums dam. In the first stage this will accommodate 260 million cubic meters. This dam will be erected on muddy basaltic ground and will play a great role in improving the groundwater reserves in the area and supporting the existing irrigation systems (Hums-Hamah). It will be possible to participate with the al-Rustan dam, which will provide its water in full after the project to develop the al-Ghab, and the surplus it will provide will play a great role in irrigating the agricultural lands extending east and north of the Orontes to Silmiyah.

The purpose of dams lying between al-Rustan and Hamah will be the same as that mentioned above, to divert floods from the al-Ghab plain, expand horizontal irrigation in the direction of al-Silmiyah and consequently improve and remove salt from the water table.

The al-Rawj plain: The area of this plain is about 100,000 donums and an irrigation system for 30,000 donums has been used in it since 1970; however, as a result of the paucity of water and the increase in the wells spread arbitrarily about the plain, this area has been affected. A number of wells are now being drilled and equipped with pumps to irrigate what can be irrigated from the existing systems. As far as the wells go, it is absolutely prohibited to drill any well without prior permission and a military permit and observance of the statutes and laws regulating that, and acts of trespass are prohibited.

Water Pollution

The condition of this basin in areas of large population concentration and the presence of Lake Qatinah, which led to the establishment of industries around it and on its shores in order to obtain water sources, resulted in the pollution of the lake and consequently the pollution of the river, which calls for eradication of the danger and a struggle against pollution.

Random Housing:

A problem which the farmland suffers from, especially in the al-Ghab area, is that of random housing and the spread of construction at the expense of farmland, which, after some years, could eliminate the green areas which have been reclaimed.

As part of the project to develop the al-Ghab, four model villages are to be built for this purpose to prevent expansion at the expense of farmland. These villages are:

The village of Shathah, the village of Nahr al-Barid, the village of al-Huwayjah and the village of al-Zaqum.

Of course these villages will not absorb the population increase in this plain, where the growth of population increase is considered high; this prompted the economic committee which visited the area on 25 March 1987 to issue decrees on the formation of a committee to prepare a study on the status of settlement in the al-Ghab, Tar al-'Ala and al-'Asharinah, the population situation and future developments. Great efforts were exerted to arrive at appropriate solutions to prevent arbitrary expansion on this plain.

The sites of six new villages in the al-Ghab have been selected. These are:

Al-'Anqawi, Qal'at al-Midyaq, Jabb al-Ahmar, 'Ayn Salimu, Mirdash and 'Ayn al-Kurum. Nine model villages in Tar al-'Ala al-'Asharinah have been approved. These are:

Asilah, Ma'arrayn al-Salib, Kanfu, Dayr Shamil, Salhab (al-Saff), Abu 'Ubaydah, Hayalin, Kafr Hud and al-'Asharinah.

A start has been made on the local study of these villages and the Orontes basin department is financing it.

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Factors Affecting Bread Quality Examined 44040003b Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Aug 87 p 7

[Article by Ahmad Mardini: "Factors of Good Bread Production"]

[Text] There is so much talk about the loaf of bread! Sometimes we discuss it from the point of view of production and distribution, at other times from the point of view of quality and the difference in quality between one bakery and another. The question is why the dissimilarity in bread production between the reserve bakeries, on the one hand, and the private or mechanized bakeries, on the other hand.

The reasons are many: some objective, some not so. Whatever the case may be, we are in the presence of a good experiment that is about 10 years old. Nevertheless, we have been unable to generalize it to the remaining bread-producing sectors. On this subject, we can perhaps shed light on the role of these reserve bakeries and their contribution to filling a large proportion of the country's need, as well as learning how to make a good loaf of bread technically. We therefore met with the head of the Reserve Bakery Committee, and we chose the bakeries of al-Mulayyah as a sample of them, because they enjoy special importance in this area.

Reserve Bakeries

The reserve bakeries are considered an effective back-up for the public mechanized bakeries. The two work together to fill more than 60 percent of the country's need for bread. The Reserve Bakery Committee was created at the end of 1977, implementing directives of the national conference and of the prime minister's office concerning eliminating the bread crisis and making bread available in the most convenient ways and with the best specifications. It was entrusted with the task of administering and utilizing the then existing reserve bakeries, as well as those subsequently established in Damascus and the other provinces of the country.

During the present year, these numbered over 45 bakeries, divided among Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hims, Tartus, al-Ladhiqiyah, Halab, and al-Raqqa, and producing about 340 tons of bread a day.

These bakeries contain stone oven production lines in addition to locally manufactured semi-mechanized lines. They have good productive capacity and work night and day, taking into consideration the state of demand and retail distribution, so as not to lead to waste or spoilage.

Production is sold from direct-sale outlets in the bakeries and stands scattered in different areas of the city, as well as requisitions of the public sector and some authorized agents, in order to cover the needs of citizens and of some areas where no bakeries are located or which need bread.

About 1,300 production workers in two shifts work in the reserve bakeries. Their wages are paid according to production and for each stage of work on the basis of a wage schedule issued by the Reserve Bakery Committee. Materials and necessary repairs are furnished directly to these bakeries by the committee, which promptly deals with break-downs according to its available resources, so as to guarantee continuous work in the bakeries and uninterrupted maximum-speed production.

Current Projects

We obtained this brief introduction to reserve bakeries from those who work in the committee administration. Mr Badr-al-Din Nuqtah, head of the committee, spoke to us about current projects. He said: "The committee is now equipping and putting in operation the third reserve bakery in the city of al-Ladhiqiyah and is trying to complete it before the start of the Mediterranean cycle. Reserve bakery production there will thus reach about 30 tons a day, with the possibility of raising it to about 40 tons, according to demand and need."

"There is another mechanized bakery that was built in the Province of al-Qunaytirah. It will be put in operation during the country's celebration of the October holidays. In addition, construction of a new bakery will begin in the Province of Dar'a.

"In the face of this expansion of Reserve Bakery Committee activities and through the effort of the minister of supply and internal trade, Ministerial Council Economic Committee approval has been obtained for converting the committee into a public company called al-Jala' Bread and Pastry Company. We are awaiting issuance of the necessary regulation."

Al-Mulayhah Bakeries

As we said previously, we took the bakeries of al-Mulayhah as a sample of the reserve bakeries. When we visited them, we fully perceived the importance of the achievements realized in our country during the last few years in the area of solving the bread crisis. The complex is composed of six halls, only five of which are working, with a productive capacity of 30 tons a day. The sixth hall is a ready reserve that can be put into production in case it is needed.

We met Agricultural Engineer 'Umar Sadiq, director of the complex there. He gave us an idea about it and about the current state of operations in it, and said:

"The complex was dedicated on 29 November 1984, on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the blessed reform movement, and was built to supply bread sales outlets in the city of Damascus and rural Damascus. About 20 tons of bread daily are moved by automobile to 14 outlets, keeping in mind the fact that the two stands of the Exhibition grounds and al-Zahirah each sell 4 tons of bread a day and serve as moving bakeries that provide for the needs of citizens in any neighborhood where there are no bakeries.

"Work in the al-Mulayhah bakeries begins at 8 pm and ends at 8 am each day, with two work shifts. Bread is distributed to the stands from 4 to 9 am. In addition, there is a stone oven that works continuously to supply the people of al-Mulayhah with fresh bread throughout the 24-hour period.

Causes of Excellence, the "Trade Secret"

Concerning causes of excellence Engineer 'Umar said: "A clear improvement in bread quality has recently occurred. The causes are many and include the fact that the flour currently used in bread manufacture has an extraction ratio of 74-78 percent, which has a clear influence on the quality of bread produced. Also, the bakery committee continually oversees and monitors the work of those who supervise the production halls. If bread is produced that violates committee-defined specifications, the supervisor's contract is immediately terminated. Something that contributes to realizing this is the close cooperation between the complex and the Rural Damascus Supply Administration, which monitors the work of supervisors and arranges the necessary supply controls in the case of those who commit violations."

As for bread specifications, they define the weight of a single package as 2 kg; it should contain 10 hollow loaves, of acceptable aroma, and with a diameter of 30-32 cm per loaf. Any citizen who notices a departure from these specifications should contact the Reserve Bakery Committee or the Supply Administration to stop the violation immediately.

"It should be pointed out here that the operation of stacking bread for 12 hours and transporting it afterwards by automobile to the stands effects the quality of the bread. Generally, the bread that citizens obtain directly from the bakery is better than what is distributed in the stands on account of stacking. This causes great crowding at the bakeries.

"So much for the causes of excellence; as for the "trade secret," Brother Muwaffaq 'Abdallah, supervisor of the second production hall, spoke to us about it, saying: "There is no 'trade success secret' in the sense of a secret as we find it in other trades. It all lies in the fact that the human being is the basic element in improving the quality of the loaf. The role of the machine is secondary or supplementary. Worker stability helps greatly in achieving success, and this stability cannot be realized without good monetary incentives. This is what was actually achieved in the reserve bakeries. Foremost in the success of the loaf comes the dough stage, and here experience, through constant practice, plays the fundamental role. The stage of allowing the dough to rise before putting it into the oven follows. In general, the basic operational stages for making the loaf are:

Kneading, cutting, opening, and then baking. All these stages require an appropriate time that must be carefully observed."

Realizing Continuous Success

This is a comprehensive presentation of the facts about reserve bakeries generally and about the al-Mulayhah complex specifically. We observed from our inquiry that there are a number of difficulties requiring solution for

continued success to be achieved in this outstanding experiment at producing a good loaf. Among these difficulties at the reserve bakery level in general are: the rise in prices of materials and equipment needed by the bakeries from time to time, and merchants who do not abide by the prices and who sell material only for cash, and without concluding contracts, whatever the value may be. There is also the difficulty of guaranteeing the plastic bags to pack the production fully, and the excessive rise in its price. The regulations in force conflict with customary commercial practices and operations, which affects the speed and progress of work. There is [the problem of] guaranteeing necessary material and repairs with all due speed and according to work requirements. There is the need to run operations in the reserve bakeries according to the requirements of customary commercial practice, regardless of the regulations in

effect, as much as possible and within fundamental principals, so as to realize the flexibility and speed that must be present in any commercial operation.

At the level of the al-Mulayyah complex, there is the need to solve the repair problem by setting up a specialized workshop for the complex and by increasing the number of technicians in it. The labor shortage problem must also be solved, especially since the nature of night work leads to many workers becoming averse to working in this complex because of its distance from the city. A solution to the problem of labor turnover and shortage would be the creation of rooms for dough-rising, which would eliminate the need for a large number of hard-to-obtain workers.

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BANGLADESH

Inland Water Transit Accord Reached With India 03041638 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 87

Bangladesh and India have signed a 2-year agreement on inland water transit. An official handout says the agreement provides for better utilization of water routes on the basis of equal sharing of cargoes. The agreement came after 3 days of discussions between the delegations of the two countries in Dhaka today. Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Inam Ahmad Chowdhury led the Bangladesh delegation at the meeting, while the Indian side was headed by secretary of the Ministry of Surface Transport, P.P.Nayar.

IRAN

Warden Interviewed on Tehran, Karaj Prisons 46400184a London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 87 p 18

[Interview with Qasr and Qazal Hessar Prison Warden Davud Agah, date and place not specified]

[Text] KEYHAN Social Service—Davud Agah, warden of the common-crime and public Qasr and Qazal Hessar prisons, gave *Keyhan* an exclusive interview in which he discussed new facilities provided for prisoners. He announced the transfer of narcotics prisoners to Qazal Hessar prison, along with the gradual closing of the country's oldest prison, the Qasr Penal Institution. He said: Qasr prison is now operating at one-fifth of its former capacity. This question is to be considered in deliberations on the future of prisoners by the Prisons Supervisory Council. Agah also said that planning will include efforts to solve the problems of the prisoner outside the prison. In this interview he called upon the people to respond appropriately to released prisoners, to keep them from becoming disillusioned.

The interview begins a little bit late, and by way of explanation he says: Sometimes critical and urgent matters arise which naturally have priority. A problem, no matter how small, can cause a delay.

We ask the official of the common-crime prisons of Tehran and Karaj about the reasons for choosing this occupation. We want to know how he views his responsibility. He begins with a thorough introduction of himself. He says:

I am responsible for the common-crime prisons of Tehran and Karaj, where narcotics addicts and those brought by the Tehran public prosecutor and the economic affairs prosecutor are kept—with the exception of the mini-groups. We are not involved with other prisoners. In general, we spend most of our time in the prison area and with prisoners. Since the prison and the prisoner have special social difficulties and I had a special

interest in the field of education and training, I accepted this responsibility so that I could remove a burden from society's shoulders by solving problems in the prison. With the programs we have devised for the prisoner, we hope to reach our goal. Although we cannot say how soon we will achieve early results or claim to have solved the problems, we hope, with the support of all prison-related organizations, to solve the problems. When I first accepted responsibility for the Tehran and Karaj prisons, I did not think that there would be so much work and that the prison and its problems would occupy my thoughts even when I'm not in the office. When I arrived, I realized that I was weak and in need of much support. The old prison culture was dominant, and there were problems that were not acceptable to the people, or even the prisoners and their families. We realized that the prison's staff had been depleted and that a great deal of work would be needed to solve prison problems which might take years. Concerned people must join hands and make plans, in cooperation with various organizations, to create an environment in the prisons where we can reach our goal, which is to punish and rehabilitate the prisoner.

[Question] The prison and the prisoner are two separate topics for discussion in society. What is your concept of the two terms 'prison' and 'prisoner'?

[Answer] The prison is a place where society's sick people who have committed some kind of crime or violation are kept to be disciplined, punished, and awakened. We have different crimes and criminals. We cannot equate someone who has had an accident with a criminal, or someone who has gone bankrupt with someone who has unintentionally sinned or committed an offense. A distinction must be made between people who have rebelled, committed murder, or in many cases deliberately committed crimes with other sinners. The question of how to deal with them, however, is itself worthy of discussion. Society expects those who have rebelled, knowingly created disturbances, or violated the principles of the people to be rounded up. These people must be disciplined to protect society's health. After such people are sent to the prison we have tried, as much as we can and to the extent allowed by the size of the prison, to group them by categories. Those who have committed minor crimes can be dealt with more quickly. We have facilities for their temporary release and for their problems, and we grant them privileges. Concerning the second class, however, efforts have been made to deal with them kindly so that they will not lose hope in life. We try to make them aware of their errors in some way so that after their return to society the effects of their awakening and punishment will be evident. There are people here who are habitual petty offenders. They go and come. I think that in a society of 40 million people there is only a small number of people who absolutely cannot be reformed, whose character does not change no matter how they are treated. A serious decision must be made with regard to them so that they will not see the prison as a sanctuary.

Categorizing Prisoners

[Question] You have referred to categories of prisoners. On what basis are prisoners categorized? On the degree of their narcotics addiction, the extent of their crime, or what?

[Answer] On the basis of the sensitivity the respected chief of prisons has concerning this and on the basis of our responsibility, we have reserved all of Qazal Hessar prison for addicted prisoners. We were dividing all prisoners after they were brought to Pol-e Rumi Detention Center and then confined at Qasr prison, for later transfer to Qazal Hessar. This duplicated effort does not occur now, and we transfer the prisoners directly to Qazal Hessar. Any addicted prisoners here now were here before, either eligible for pardons or about to be freed after completing their terms. As for prisoners sent by the public prosecutor, they are grouped in various cells within the prison by category. After they arrive at the detention center in quarantine and are photographed and fingerprinted, they are grouped on the basis of record, age, and type of crime. After they spend some time in prison, those who are deserving, in need, or have the desired moral attributes are authorized by the classification council to begin working in the rehabilitation center. In this way they both learn a profession and help their families.

[Question] They say, and rightly, that many prisoners have been converted from petty thieves to experienced thieves in prison. We ask the warden for Qasr and Qazal Hessar prisons: What have you done to keep an egg thief from becoming a camel thief?

[Answer] He says: The reality is that the prison is not a suitable environment or a good place for that. When categories are devised it is still an environment where everyone has committed a crime, the thief lives with the thief; he lives with people who are like him. However, the reality must be accepted that a human being has different inclinations. If he wants to become a thief, he will do so. I do not think that the place where a thief learns bad behavior is inside the prison. We have tried to make mental and physical changes in the prisoners who come here. He then discussed the construction of a mosque for Islamic propagandists and the selection of concerned officials for the library. He says: As the result of planning we have done, we have had success in training the minds and bodies of prisoners. There are prisoners who go astray after their release, but with all the training, many have chosen the right path. He adds: One of the plans of the Prison Supervisory Council for the future of prisoners is that we will maintain relations with prisoners after their release. We will visit them and follow their situation on the outside, supervise them and solve their problems. However, I said that if he will not abandon his petty crime, what can we do with him? There is nothing that could not have been learned on the outside by someone who has knowingly learned bad behavior and is now learning bad things in prison. It is

an ancient truism that whoever goes to prison becomes worse rather than better. I believe that this is a kind of generalization. We cannot use this as a reason to say that no one should go to prison. Offenders must be brought to an environment where society will be protected from them. As for what we should do with them, this depends on the judicial authority and planning within the prison to make this environment a model for them so that they will not go astray after they are released.. We say: You know that someone who writes a bad check is a cellmate with someone who has been imprisoned many times for theft, and a hubcap thief is in the same cell with someone who has committed armed robbery. Clearly, cohabitation of this nature will produce learning in the process, and if—as you say— someone wants to learn various methods of operation in prison, he may do so. He says: These are relative cases. We don't know of anyone who has committed another crime. If we want to separate them, we would have to give each individual his own room, a difficult thing to do in practice. If we were able to have these facilities, it would be a good thing, but it is not practical. On the other hand, we must not deny this matter. Individual prisoners have bad and visible psychological effects on prisoners, especially if they are serving long terms. We have tried to put prisoners with similar offenses together. For example, automobile accidents are in one room, armed robbery in another, and their times for sleeping and rising are not the same. However, they are together during their times in the prison yard, during group games and at the mosque, and this is inevitable. For example, we could not give each one of them five minutes in the yard. The prison yard is always open, and the mosque and library are open for their use 24 hours a day. They use the lounge until the lights are out. They have experienced instructors for exercise training. A closed-circuit educational system has been installed for them which broadcasts through the penal institution from morning to night. In the afternoon they see television programs, and there are literacy classes, language classes, and elementary and guidance classes in the prison. Our effort and goal in everything is to bring them a few steps forward. For someone wishing to be drawn in, the proper environment is here. All of our efforts day and night are to help the prisoner. There are brothers who remain in this prison and work for hours because of their love and their interest, and in order to return the prisoners to a healthy life.

Basic Reasons for Crime

[Question] As an official who understands crime, what do you see as the main reasons for the occurrence of crime in society?

[Answer] By way of a preface I must state that we are proud that today our society has the lowest crime rate in comparison with other societies. If the things we regard as crimes today in our Islamic society were crimes in Europe, they would all have to be put in jail. They have sexual problems, vagrancy, wine-drinking and other things. With particular reference to crimes, however, we

must return to the past to see what they did to our youth. Before our revolution, we lived in a society where corruption, prostitution and vagrancy were openly prevalent. Everyone was afflicted with these things, from the nation's leaders on down. The creation of brothels, liquor stores, cabarets, dance halls, centers for drinking, flirtation and pleasure, all of these factors went hand-in-hand and planted a seed in our society which will take time, continuous cultural work, and extensive planning to eradicate. With the onset of the revolution we had to begin reconstruction and establish new values. Before we could get on our feet, we were faced with various plots, the disturbance in Kordistan, and the Iran-Iraq war. These made it necessary for the officials and leaders of our government to put top priority on protecting the principles of our country. Today a great many of our youth are thinking of the mosques, participation in the mobilization and manning the fronts. However, there is a limited number who, under the influence of other propaganda and political directions, are being drawn into idleness. Along with this, it must be stated in short that the reason for crime is the lack of a good family environment for youth and the lack of concern in families for the fate of their children. The environment in our current society does not promote crime. Previously, crime may have come into the home from the outside environment, but now crime is spreading from the homes into society. After a youth has been corrupted, what must be done? We believe that these youths must be esteemed and valued, and dealt with warmly. They must not be driven from society, for this mistaken approach would cause them to return to their erroneous ways. They must not be discouraged and made to despair. Their mistakes must be overlooked, for God is the veiler of defects. The people must also overlook the shortcomings of others, the family must not become disappointed in them, they must still be kind and not let his childishness appear outside the family. It is enough for a child to be deprived of the warmth and presence of his family for a few days or a night to create new problems. In this the government and the people have an effective role to play. If a person is imprisoned, what is his future after release? Principles must be kept in mind. At the workplace, they must be welcomed warmly. If someone who has been imprisoned once is to be fired from his factory job, we will find him wandering around in the coffee houses, and he will ultimately be drawn back into corruption. Society must be prepared to accept persons who have sinned because of special conditions, and it must embrace them sincerely and bring hope to life in them so that they can find their worth and their place. In another aspect of the situation, however, when we study the crimes of very young persons, we see that such offenders have not had good mothers and fathers. The lack of proper training has caused the children to withdraw, and in continuing this seclusion they have gotten involved with vicious people.

[Question] It has been observed that many people who have been imprisoned more than once...return to criminal behavior as soon as they are released.

[Answer] In any case, there must be a place which accepts such people. If he has no friends at the workplace, he will return to his old associates, and they will take him down the wrong path again. We hope officials will be able to do something which grants special privileges for such people so that they will have work after being released and will not return to prison again. We have prisoners who do not understand why they have been freed after their release. They do not know where to go. They do not even have a place to stay at night. Repeated imprisonment has caused society to lose confidence in them, they have been lost. We are worried that we will see such people back in prison tomorrow and the next day. In this regard, the media can provide effective assistance. Let us show society that many people are quite repentant when they come here, and they work to return to society again. How can these instances be shown to the people, especially to youth? The people must be taught to show these people a good example before they are imprisoned. Unfortunately, we have not succeeded in showing such examples. All of the efforts of our judicial authorities are aimed at punishing the one so that the many may profit from the example. The one is punished, but it is not reflected elsewhere. If we could present such cases without disclosing identities, good programs could be planned.

[Question] How important to you is the health of prisoners? In view of Qasr prison's age—and that of other prisons—and the disrepair of the buildings, don't problems arise with the health of prisoners?

[Answer] Prisoners are part of the body of our society. We look at each one of them as a brother and a friend. As our master 'Ali said to King Ashtar: There are two kinds of people, those who are your brothers in religion, and those who are your brothers in humanity. Prisoners are human beings. They have erred and gone to prison. Their health has special importance for us. For this reason we have built a relatively small health clinic in the prison and have invited physicians to treat the prisoners. There are physicians who make honorary visits one or two days a week and work here. We have built eight equipped toilets within the cell area, and they use them at all hours of the day and night. Concerning the disrepair of the buildings, I must say, just as the respected chief of prisons has previously said, that there are plans to vacate this place. After addicted prisoners were no longer accepted here, the prison's load was significantly reduced, and we are hoping to transfer the prisoners to another environment. The chief of prisons will make a decision about what to do with the building or how to sell it. Concerning the disrepair of the buildings, if they are repairable, they will be repaired, and if, God forbid, a building has a problem, steps will be taken immediately.

Pardon and Parole

[Question] Lately pardons and paroles have become numerous. Is this indicative of a space shortage, or do officials have a special policy? To understand this issue we must know the problems that come with being a

prisoner. If the prisoner is alone, plans can be made. Most of those who are imprisoned have wives and children, they carry the financial burden of a family and are very often renters. These problems can be solved through the prisoners' family protection society, but this aid cannot provide a definitive answer to the problems of families of prisoners, and its continuation disrupts social control and organization. It is not only a matter of financial aid. The children of a prisoner are damaged emotionally. A prisoner's child does not understand that his father is a prisoner, he wants his father and mother, and there are other emotional problems. Among the good practices that have been instituted since the revolution and that we do in this prison is the granting of leave to prisoners whose temporary release will effectively assist their families, also improving the prisoner's morale. As the prisoners know, every two or three months they may spend three days with their families. This is a source of joy for the prisoner and his family. On the other hand, if no leave is given to an imprisoned individual, he will live in complete despair. On the other hand, if he knows that his morality and behavior have an effect on his eligibility for leave, he will correct himself. I fully believe that leave time is a very positive privilege for a prisoner. Our goal in understanding a prisoner's personality is to punish him and bring awareness to life in him. Otherwise, we will not achieve the principal goal. Whether the period of release be short or long, the matter is in the hands of the respected Imam's council of pardons, and they consider a prisoner's release time with sufficient awareness and insight and with full consultation. The constructive and positive role of this work must be praised.

[Question] You mentioned the transfer of Qasr Prison. What is the new policy, and at the same time what plans have been made for work for the prisoners in the open prison?

[Answer] There are plans for the urban prisons, including Qasr Prison, to be combined, and a new place prepared for the combined prison, if one can be found. Concerning the open prisons, when a prisoner is in desirable circumstances and has been given permission to work, then he can get permission for semi-open status, which affords him more privileges. That is, he will be transferred to a more open environment. Then he can be granted the status of open imprisonment. In this case, a prisoner may work outside the prison in a factory, a workshop, or on a farm.

[Questions] In planning for new prison buildings and prison sites, are there to be more prisoners or fewer prisoners?

[Answer] Our mini-group prisoners have become very small in number. In two units at Qazal Hessar Prison that had been taken over by mini-group prisoners, a great many of them have been freed by pardons. A number of mini-group prisoners who were formerly here at Qasr have been transferred to Qazal Hessar Prison. Plans

have been made not to keep convicted prisoners at Qasr. Prisoners who are being temporarily detained or whose disposition is undecided for the time being are to be kept here. Qasr prison is now at about one-fifth of its former capacity.

[Question] To what group do the majority of the prisoners belong? In your view, what is society's most common crime?

[Answer] Most of our prisoners are narcotics addicts, and our society's problem now is narcotics. It may be said that during these last few years when we have been caught up in the war and various plots this problem has severely increased. There is a danger if this acute problem is not confronted decisively. All of our officials believe that narcotics spread into our society from abroad, and some basic thinking must be done because of the sensitivity of this matter, and if there are judicial obstacles, they must be removed.

[Question] People have been imprisoned who were the sole breadwinners for their families. Their imprisonment has created problems for their families. What aid is being given to such families?

[Answer] It is painful for our society to have a productive or producing element converted to a consumer in a prison, but there is no alternative. It is a bitter reality, someone who is not accepted by his family, society, or ultimately, the prison. Where does he go? These people must be in prison. With regard to their livelihood, however, in an emergency they can go to a factory, the prisoners family protection society can give some help, they obtain a certain amount of income by working in the prison, most of which they give to their families.

[Question] What sort of cooperation do organizations give the prison, and what are your expectations?

[Answer] During the time I have been working here, warm groups have taken our hands and asked to cooperate with us, eager to guide us and eliminate our problems. For example, the respected supervisor of the narcotics prosecutor's office of the Tehran Public Prosecutor's Office has collaborated a great deal with us. He has helped us on his own time when the public prosecutor was needed. Finally, the respected chief of prisons must be thanked for his activities, for his understanding and concern have solved many problems for prisoners. We extend the hand of need and cooperation to all compassionate persons in society hoping they will help us improve and build in prison affairs.

PAKISTAN

United States Policy Sharply Denounced

46650111b Karachi JANG in Urdu 21 Aug 87 p 3

[Article by Manzoor Ahmad: "The U.S. Aid: Pakistan Being Forced To Self-Destruct!"]

[Excerpts] The United States can start its Star Wars program against the Soviet Union to establish its supremacy over the world. Pakistan, on the other hand, is not even allowed to work on its nuclear program for its own defense. It is called fascist's right and in this democratic world the United States uses this right like a sea pirate. The U.S. professors who taught at Dhaka University on Ford Foundation grants or were sent by other U.S. organizations taught the students and the faculty about separating East Bengal from West Pakistan. Their mission in that country was mostly political in nature and had little to do with education. They sowed the seeds of secession in every meeting or party they attended. The United States was still considered our friend even though it played a major role in our country's division in 1970-71. Who needs enemies when we have friends like that? Later, it got Pakistan deep in the muck of its Afghanistan policy. Now, it is threatening to stop aid to us. This damned U.S. aid is what makes other countries to close their doors to us. The United States wants to search our whole country without any search warrant because our atomic plant has become a question of pride for it.

Let us review some recent history. Dr Mohammad Masdaq acting as a representative of Iranians decided to nationalize oil in Iran and challenged the U.S. Seven Sisters. He also challenged the Shah's dictatorship and forced him to leave the country. The United States retaliated by sending its CIA to conspire with Arusher Zahidi and throw out Dr Mohammad Masdaq's government and reinstate the Shah in his throne again. The United States never let the Shah forget that he had returned to sit on the Peacock throne with its help and he owed unrestricted cooperation to the United States.

It was Khawaja Khizar who caused the boat to sink. It was the United States that invented the atom bomb. It decided to test the power of this bomb and dropped two vastly destructive bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, two cities of an Asian country. Had the United States wanted, it could have tested both bombs, or at least one of them, by dropping it on a German city. But such an act would have been against the European culture and the Western humanitarian standards! The American love for culture and human rights is reserved for Europe only. Its barbarity is reserved for us Asians. "Low class people get low class treatment." Israel is the favorite country of the United States. It tells the world proudly to take a look at its "beloved" country. Americans are expert at getting what they want by using force, tricks, and bribes. Who can escape the U.S. trickery if it can bribe Tanaka, the former prime minister of Japan?

Even the U.S. press publish stories about important government officials accepting bribes from the American Government. These stories are discussed in the United States Congress. When you think quietly for a while, you will notice that the U.S. hand is behind this whole racket of bribery in the Third World. It is the U.S. influence that has caused economic problems, lack of self-respect, and political anarchy in our country. The United States does not believe in morals; it only believes in money and profit. The U.S. bribes are so omnipresent that the corrupt Indian prime minister can accuse his opponent, Vishwanath Partap Singh, of accepting bribes from the CIA. All Vishwanath Partap Singh did was to uncover the corruption in Rajiv's government and finger the leaders who had sold their souls for military cooperation. The U.S. bribes are so common now that anyone can be accused of accepting them!

When they need help, the Americans hug you and tell you with moist eyes that they are planning for a party tomorrow. Once a nation is hooked, the United States begins to use force. We are drowned so deep in the muck of U.S. fraud that we refuse to believe our government if it says anything against the United States. Perhaps we received some cash and a pat on the back from the Arab countries for our policy on Afghanistan. However, if we get involved in the Gulf, the whole Third World will hold us in abomination.

There have been many changes in countries around us due to the war between Iran and Iraq. The era of status quo is long gone. Patriotic groups are taking over power everywhere and this trend has made it difficult for the United States to take over control. It is not easy to crush this revolutionary force. This is the time for change and not for sticking with tradition. Our leaders who travel to London and Washington every other month for political reasons should note this change. They should keep in mind that our nuclear program is an indicator of our independent status. Its opponents just repeat what villains in movies and mystery novels say in such situations? Only ignoring all such talks against this symbol of our independence will prove that we are a free country. "A country's survival depends on its own decisions."

7997

Nation Advised To Seek Alternatives to U.S. Aid

46560111a Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
16 Aug 87 p 4

[Article by Tariq Warsi: "Appropriate Steps or Retaliation?"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. aid has always been a controversial issue for Pakistan. The fact that this affair has been one-sided during various regimes has left Pakistan open for blackmail. Some people believe that Pakistan's dependence on one superpower has become problematic for Pakistan. However, our present democratic government has decided not to do anything about it and just to

wait "gracefully." This government does not even consider the benefits of changing blocs. The opposition parties are asking the government to change its foreign policy, but does not suggest any alternative. It is the duty of the opposition parties to let people know about their opinion on important national issues. They should talk

'y and logically. Pakistan has enough problems already and the time and energy required to go look for new friends and establish new relationships could be a problem in itself. Our most nagging problem is economic and military aid. The Afghan refugees have given impetus to economic aid and the Soviet aggression and India's continuous hunger for more territories have made military aid indispensable for us. If we go out looking for new friends, it might take several months just for the "paperwork" required to start new relationship. Then there is the question whether the new ally would give us military aid against India, provide food for the Afghan refugees, and solve the Afghanistan problem? In this state of affairs it is imperative that serious thought be given to any change in our foreign policy. We also have to find out what our new friends will think about our atomic program. Will their stand be any different than the one taken by the United States? The policy formulators in Islamabad have to consider all these issues. At present they are stressing the importance of keeping a status quo as a self-respecting nation. In the "political arcade" of Islamabad a new viewpoint, or should we say "a new point of dissension," is becoming very popular. This point is that the "Hindu-Jewish lobby" has not let Pakistan's friendship with the United States to flourish for the last 40 years. Washington, according to this line of thought, just cannot ignore this sphere of influence. We wonder why Pakistan cannot form a lobby in the United States if India has done so? You have to have a reason when you ask for something. You need good arguments and reasoning to convince someone of something. Who stopped Pakistan from lobbying? Why is our ambassador in Washington fighting his battles alone? Why is our foreign minister fighting wars at four fronts all by himself? Do not we have a brain? Do not we have logic and reasoning powers? If India can work with Israel then why does not Pakistan become friendly with the U.S. democratic institutions and its press? Why is not the United States made to convince that it is persecuting a democratic government in Pakistan? The United States considers itself the prime

advocate of democracy and basic human rights in the whole world. However, all incumbent U.S. governments are blackmailed by the lobbies that got votes for it to come to power. What kind of government is there? They do not hesitate in making deals with dictators when it comes to protecting their interests. When needed, they can ignore the democracy totally!

We should also consider this fact. Why does our government has to work alone when we want to get money from another country's treasury? India's opposition and the government representatives forget their differences when they go abroad. Does our opposition lack this feeling?

We cannot ignore the fact that the United States cannot afford to upset Pakistan because of its strategic location in this area. If Pakistan is forced to do something that it does not like, the United States should keep in mind that the Soviet Union might go deep into the Indian Ocean. This would influence the oil line very strongly. The bottom line is that we must spend our next 105 days thinking of new ways. We must look at all alternatives in case we fail to get U.S. aid. We must remember that "alternative" and "retaliatory" steps are very different things. We have enough problems already, therefore, all we can do is think of alternatives. We stayed alive when Carter stopped aid to us and we can stay alive with pride again if needed. Too many things are happening in our region. We discussed Kabul's Najibullah and the time given to him by the Russians in this very column not long ago. Dr Najibulla was formally installed on the Kabul throne with a lot of pomp and show. Where is he now? All we know now is the bravery and patriotism of Afghan Mujahiddin. Oil is flowing on top of the blue waters of the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Hormuz. It could catch fire any minute. In addition to this all, our enemies are not very happy. Our atomic establishments can become their targets if the U.S. aid is stopped and we take a stand which makes our enemies mad. We must make sure that these installations are properly defended. Even though it is believed that we have made adequate arrangements for their defense, a little negligence could result in a disaster. 7997

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